

terial hyperæmia. The external poisons thus acting are tobacco, alcohol, tea and coffee, the internal are certain effete products of tissue metamorphosis which accumulate in the bodies of gouty patients or of those whose kidneys act deficiently. The insomnia of these cases he believes to be due to the maintenance of a state of high tension in the cerebral arteries. In the senile form of insomnia the sleeplessness is due to senile degeneration of the smaller cerebral arteries, which are physically unable to adapt themselves to the condition of relative arterial anæmia, which is requisite for healthy sleep. In the treatment of insomnia, soporifics must often be used. Of these, the chief are chloral, opium, morphia, the bromides, Indian hemp, alcohol, and affusion with cold water. In psychic insomnia, Dr. Sawyer prefers chloral. Change of air and scene and rest are essential. In the well nourished, bromide of potassium is the best hypnotic, in 30-60 grain doses, combined with tincture of ergot, or of digitalis. Over-worked men are often anæmic, and require iron, with a little alcohol, at night. Exercise may generally be enjoined. In gouty lithiasis, with a pulse of high tension, he has confidence in the curative effects of colchicum, supplemented by the use of dilute saline purgatives, such as Pullna, Friedrichshall, Hunyadi Janos, or Rakoczy waters. Senile insomnia is very obstinate, but perhaps in the bromides, with full doses of hops or henbane, we have the best and least harmful means for its relief.—*Lancet and Hospital Gazette, N. Y.*

New method of compression of the iliac artery in amputation at the hip-joint.—Mr. Richard Davy, of the Westminster Hospital, remarks that in all severe operations, one of the first considerations of the surgeon is to anticipate shock, and to prevent the loss of blood. He accordingly permits a patient to have a glass of wine or brandy and water about an hour before the operation, with a result that partakes more of a sedative than of a stimulant character; apprehension is assured; cardiac tone is gained; fitness for the ordeal is exhibited. The American sur-