

two or three days, reduces by one half the frequency of the attacks, lessening at the same time their severity. The speedy subsidence and disappearance of the whoop attest the influence of this drug. Like all other remedies for whooping cough, it acts best in uncomplicated cases, and when the weather is warm and mild. If the weather is cold, and the winds cutting and sharp, the child should be confined to a warm room; but under other circumstances the child should live as much as possible in the open air. For a child two years old, the author orders ten minims of the tincture of lobelia every hour, and an additional dose each time the cough is imminent, if it gives sufficient warning. Children bear large doses of the drug; for, in no instance, has the author witnessed nausea, sickness, or faintness, or any ill effects, follow the doses just recommended. He finds, indeed, that adults are much less tolerant of lobelia than children.* Sometimes, it is true, this medicine produces a slight burning sensation in the throat. Whooping cough is well known to be a very obstinate and dangerous affection in children only a few months old, and in such cases lobelia often appears to do less good than in older children. The author gives five minims of the tincture every hour even to very young children.

Lobelia has been praised in bronchitis; the author has tried it in several cases; but while it removed any paroxysmal dyspnoea, it appeared to be powerless over the bronchitis itself. It has been employed in laryngismus stridulus and in croup.

* Mr. Foster of Huntingdon, and Dr. Howard Sargent of Boston, America, recommend clover in whooping cough. Dr. Sargent gives a wineglassful occasionally through the day, of an infusion made with two ounces of carefully dried blossoms of red clover, steeped in a pint of boiling water for four hours.

CANNABIS INDICA.

ALL persons are not similarly affected by Indian hemp, and race and climate have been supposed to modify its influence. Its effects are most marked on the brain, whose functions it more or less perverts in various ways. It generally produces a pleasurable intoxication, and the dosed person becomes talkative, or sings, or perpetually giggles, and objects often assume to him very grotesque aspects, exciting him to much merriment. He is possessed with a feeling of happiness and contentment, and ideas of a pleasing kind pass with much rapidity through the mind, sometimes unconnected and immediately forgotten; but in other instances remembered on the return to the normal state. After a time sleep sets in, generally accompanied with delightful dreams. There may be pain in the head, and "a sensation as of the brain boiling over, and lifting the cranial arch like the lid of a tea-kettle." Among the early symptoms are a feeling of heaviness of the arms and legs. The head feels hot and heavy. The eyes are bright and shiny, with sometimes giddiness and noises in the ears. General sensibility is also affected, and pricking in the feet, or over the whole body with numbness, often of a pleasurable kind, is an early symptom. Pressure on the skin may excite a sensation of burning. After a time, complete anæsthesia sets in to such an extent, that while standing there may be no consciousness of touching the ground. The muscular sense is even lost, and pain is lessened or removed. Sometimes it produces complete catalepsy. It often occasions a ravenous sensation, not to be appeased by food. In some instances the pulse is said to be at first rather increased in frequency and strength, but neither pulse nor breathing is much altered. The pupils contract to light. Sometimes there is strong sexual desire.

Such is the group of symptoms induced by Indian hemp, but they do not all occur in the same person, but are variously combined; and sometimes it produces sensations anything

but pleasant, as nausea, vomiting, great thirst, frequent, weak, and intermittent pulse, with disagreeable sensations and ideas.

If indulged in for a long time, as is common in the East, it produces loss of appetite and strength, trembling and much mental weakness. It is used to produce sleep, and its effects have been compared to those of opium; but it differs from this drug, it is said, in not producing nausea, constipation, or headache. Fronmüller administered it in 1000 cases, and found that it succeeded in 530; partly succeeded in 215; and produced little or no effect in 255 instances. A large dose is required to induce a hypnotic effect, a quantity as eight grains of the spirituous extract, which sometimes excites headache, vomiting, and giddiness soon after its administration; and the headache may be severe, dull, and throbbing, and accompanied by a coated tongue. Opium is a more certain hypnotic.

Cannabis indica is one of the most valuable remedies for megrim or sick headache. It appears to act on the central nervous affection on which this headache depends. It is found serviceable both in cases where there is little or no nausea, and where the attacks are accompanied by severe vomiting. It is most useful in my experience in preventing the attacks. It is sometimes useful in those severe forms where the headache is continuous for weeks, (see Croton-chloral); but is especially effective, where from fatigue, anxiety, or change of life, the attacks become much more frequent, then the drug gradually, and indeed sometimes quickly lengthens the interval between the attacks, and at last brings them back to their old periodicity, or even extends the intervals between the seizures. It need hardly be said that cannabis will not cure these patients. I have given this drug weeks or months continuously in doses of one third to one-half a grain twice or thrice daily. As anæmia or constipation, favouring and even exciting causes of megraine, often co-exist with it, cannabis indica may be combined in pill with either iron or aloes.

Dr. Clouston recommends cannabis indica combined with bromide of potassium in mania, giving a drachm of bromide of potassium with a drachm of the tincture of cannabis indica.

It has been given in a variety of diseases, but has hardly yielded the good results which were expected of it. It has been found useful in neuralgia, whooping-cough, and asthma. It appears to be useful in some cases of hysteria. Some accord it a high reputation as a diuretic in acute and chronic Bright's disease, and consider it to be specially indicated when there is blood in the urine. It is further said to relieve dysuria and strangury, and to be useful in retention of urine dependent on paralysis from spinal disease. It is used occasionally in gonorrhœa. It is very useful, as Dr. Silver has pointed out, in menorrhagia and dysmenorrhœa.

ERGOT.

ERGOT has a disagreeable, bitter taste, and occasions an abundant secretion of saliva. In large doses it produces nausea, vomiting, colic, diarrhœa, giddiness, headache, dilatation of the pupil, great retardation and slight weakness of the pulse.

Absorbed into the blood it causes contraction of the blood vessels, and especially those of the cord, a statement made by Brown-Séquard and noticed in the article treating of belladonna.

Whether administered by the stomach, or hypodermically, ergot causes contraction of the arteries and veins, it is said by its influence on the sympathetic system. Administered in either way, it is most valuable in hæmorrhage; indeed, few, if any, remedies rival its efficacy in this respect. Dr. Currie Ritchie and Dr. Drasche were the first to use it hypodermically, and they report successfully of cases of hæmoptysis, epistaxis, hæmatemesis, intestinal hæmorrhage in typhoid

fever. Many other observers have since confirmed their statements. In severe bleeding, when it is urgently necessary to check it at once, the hypodermic application must be used, in from two to five grain doses. As in several instances I have seen this injection produce a good deal of swelling and pain, which, however, always subsided without suppuration, it is well to warn the patient that this temporary untoward accident may follow. If the bleeding is less urgent, administration by the stomach is very successful, as Dr. Anstie has shown in his published cases, and as I have frequently witnessed. In this way it is very useful in hæmoptysis, and should be given in doses of thirty or forty minims of the liquid extract every three or four hours, or indeed, hourly in severe cases.

Hildebrand advises hypodermic injections of ergot for fibrous tumour of the womb; a curious measure it would seem, but it is endorsed by Drs. Keating and Ashurst, distinguished American physicians, who state that this treatment greatly diminishes the size of fibrous tumours. The plan is to inject at intervals five to six grains of ergotine. In Dr. Keating's case the pulse, respirations, and temperature, fell for a time after each injection, the fall increasing with each injection. Thus, after the fifteenth injection the pulse fell to fifty-six, the respirations to twelve, and the temperature to ninety-six. (?) The ergotine excited much nausea and sickness, due probably to the effect of the ergot on the womb, for the introduction of the finger into the os uteri increased the vomiting. This result, however, is not usual.

Ergot is strongly recommended in purpura.

If taken for a long time, it sometimes produces spasmodic contractions of the muscles, and occasionally gangrene of the extremities, in character generally like senile gangrene. Both these consequences of ergot are fatal.

Its effects are most expressed on the uterus, especially when pregnant. It excites in this organ powerful and continuous contractions. It is used in tedious labours, when the uterus is becoming exhausted, but must not be employed when there

is obstruction to the passage of the child, otherwise it may occasion considerable damage to the delicate structures of the mother. Many suppose that it endangers the life of the child in two ways, namely, by subjecting it to powerful and continuous uterine pressure, and by weakening its heart. This injurious pressure may be avoided, it is said, by administering the medicine in small doses, so as to strengthen the natural contractions of the uterus, but not to make them continuous. It is recommended to watch its action on the foetal heart, and if the pulsations fall to 110, or the beats become irregular, either the drug should be discontinued or the delivery effected by instruments.

It is extremely useful in post-partum hæmorrhages, arresting the bleeding by producing firm contraction of the uterus, and by its influence on the blood vessels. It is also of great use in the various forms of menorrhagia, even when it depends on uterine tumours. It is perhaps the most valuable medicine known in uterine hæmorrhage, checking the bleeding when other remedies have failed, and when the patient is reduced almost to a hopeless state. In such critical circumstances it must be given in full doses, and be repeated every hour or two. It promptly checks, and in a few hours effectually stays, the bleeding. Dry cupping over the sacrum is useful. Perfect rest should be enjoined.

It is said that ergot will arrest sweating.

Ergot is said to reduce the temperature of the body, but most observers doubt the truth of this assertion. The hypodermic injection is said to reduce the temperature of cats and dogs.

It is stated to be useful in neuralgia and paraplegia, whooping-cough, incontinence of urine, and even in some cases of leucorrhœa; but the form of leucorrhœa is not mentioned. It is also recommended in amenorrhœa with anæmia, after the use of iron.

TEA AND COFFEE.

A STRONG infusion of tea is sometimes used in poisoning by tartar emetic or the alkaloids, for the sake of the tannin which precipitates these substances.

Few substances are more to be avoided in flatulent dyspepsia than tea. It is harmful in two ways; for tea itself in this complaint is found to promote flatulence; and women, the chief sufferers from this disagreeable form of dyspepsia, are apt to drink large quantities of weak tea, and the excess of fluid keeps up the distension.

Coffee is slightly purgative to some persons.

The active principle of tea and coffee is absorbed, and acts as a stimulant to the nervous system. These beverages are especially useful in a fatigued state of the system; indeed, under ordinary circumstances they are preferable in this respect to alcoholic drinks.

"Coffee" says Dr. Parkes, in his work on hygiene, "is a most important article of diet for soldiers, as not only is it invigorating, without producing subsequent collapse, but the hot infusion is almost equally serviceable against both cold and heat; in the one case the warmth of the infusion, in the other the action of the skin, being useful; while in both cases the nervous stimulation is very desirable. Dr. Hooker tells us that in the Antarctic Expedition the men all preferred coffee to spirits, and this was the case in the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1849. The experience of Algeria and India (where coffee is coming more and more into use) proves its use in hot climates." The same authority, speaking of tea, says, "Tea seems to have a very decidedly stimulative and restorative action on the nervous system, which is perhaps aided by the warmth of the infusion. No depression follows this. The pulse is a little quickened. The amount of pulmonary carbonic is, according to E. Smith, increased. The action of the skin is increased, that of the bowels lessened.

The kidney excretion is little affected, perhaps the urea is a little lessened, but this is uncertain."

"As an article of diet for soldiers, tea is most useful. The hot infusion, like that of coffee, is potent against both heat and cold, is most useful in great fatigue, especially in hot climates (Ranald Martin), and also has a great purifying effect on water."

Dr. Fothergill finds that caffeine strengthens the contractions of frogs' hearts, and M. Jaccoud believes that it acts on the heart and blood vessels like digitalis, strengthening the heart and increasing arterial pressure.

These beverages, are useful in the headache of nervousness and exhaustion, and as an aid in rousing and keeping a patient awake in opium poisoning.

A small cup of very strong coffee is often very useful in the paroxysm of asthma; in fact it gives relief in most cases but in very unequal degree.

Although tea and coffee are very wholesome beverages, yet in some persons one or the other, or both, will occasion palpitation of the heart, sleeplessness, and mental excitement.

Coffee in certain individuals increases rather considerably the urinary water, and it is said to lessen the formation of urea, and so to check metamorphosis; but Dr. Squarey's careful experiments disprove this conclusion with respect to urea.

CINCHONA AND ITS ALKALOIDS.

SALTS OF QUINIA are protoplasmic poisons, arresting amoeboid movements and the allied movements of the white corpuscles. Even weak solutions are highly poisonous to protozoa and infusoria (Binz), more so even than salts of strychnia or morphia. Small quantities of quinia salts destroy septic germs, and arrest putrefaction, more thoroughly than most