

other drugs tried, cannabis indica, lobelia, and quinine gave the best results, the last named especially commending itself where a relapse had taken place, or where a high temperature was present.

Generally speaking, however, none approached in efficacy the belladonna treatment, and were inferior to carbolic acid. The chronic form of the disease generally succumbed to plenty of fresh air, iron, and cod-liver oil. Most effectual, however, in obstinate cases, was a thorough change of scene and air. Alum, except to check secretion, I found of no avail.

THE COCAINE HABIT IN DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND NOSE.

MR. LENNOX BROWNE (Weymouth Street) writes: "Regard for your space was the only reason why I did not enumerate in detail the injurious local effects of persistent application of cocaine to the naso-pharyngeal and laryngeal mucous membrane. In the first place, let it be understood that the drug loses even its analgesic action after long use, as is exemplified in the diminished relief it affords after a time to dysphagia occasioned by tuberculous or other ulceration—the most justifiable indication for its continuous employment. Similarly, while in the first instance promoting salivary and mucous secretion, it is later found that patients who long indulge in cocaine applications suffer from abnormal dryness of the throat. Further, its good effect in temporarily relieving capillary engorgement of the turbinated bones, etc., results, if its use is unduly prolonged, in either an anæmia with atrophy, or a no less inconvenient increase in the intensity and chronicity of the hyperæmia. Lastly, I have seen two cases, in which I believe anosmia to have been induced, or at least aggravated from this habit. Needless to add that the amount of cocaine absorbed into the system has an injurious general effect on the health in the shape of a debilitated vasomotor system."

While I thank Mr. Turner for the opportunity of giving these details, allow me to add, should he or others think I am exaggerating the importance of the question, that none but those specially occupied in laryngology or ophthalmology can have an idea of the extent to which excessive indulgence in cocaine is carried. Had I not seen several instances of its hurtfulness, I would not have troubled you with my former letter.

THE FORCEPS AND THE PERINEUM.

DR. K. DIXON DODDS, L.K.Q.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Nantyglo), writes: "In a pretty extensive midwifery practice, I have had the good luck to have had a very small percentage of perineal ruptures. And when I say that in 80 per cent. of the cases I attend (most of the midwifery in the district is done by midwives) I apply the forceps, I think I may take exception to the statement that the use of this instrument is a very frequent cause of the mishap. In my own experience the contrary is the case. In the only two cases of complete rupture I have had, labour was left solely to Nature."

The principal object of this letter is to demur to Dr. Bruce's aphorism that "A perineum once torn is sure to be torn again." That this at all events is not a constant occurrence, is borne out by the fact that within the last few weeks I have had two cases in which the perineum at the previous confinement had been torn right through to the rectum, and subsequently sutured, and although in one I delivered with forceps, in neither did it sustain the slightest laceration. I invariably withdraw the blades of the instrument during the final efforts, and forcibly flex the head on the chest, causing it to protrude through the vaginal orifice in the cervico-bregmatic diameter, which is only $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; this procedure saving the perineum an appreciable amount of distension.

PROGRESS IN SURGERY.

"THERE is," says the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*, "progress in surgery at Guy's. Within the last few weeks we have seen the cystoscope used in the diagnosis of an obscure case, the spine has been trephined to relieve pressure symptoms, and a portion of an enlarged prostate has been removed by a suprapubic operation. This is the first time that any of these new operations have been performed in our wards, and they have been attended with a measure of success which is very encouraging to surgeons."

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