larly happy influence in the majority of cases of sick headache, and it was suggested to me by Dr. Williams that I should make a trial of this drug in epilepsy. Arguing from the above the experiment seemed desirable and well worth making.

Accordingly nine epileptics were taken haphazard, the only condition being that no particular medicinal treatment had been employed in their cases for at least four months previously. Each of these patients had half a grain of extract of Indian hemp night and morning, the dose being gradually increased to one grain, and this was persevered in for four months.

The number of fits of each case was accurately noted, and compared with that registered during the previous four months; but in no case was there any diminution in the number or severity of the seizures, and in seven out of the nine there was a positive though slight increase.

It is therefore evident that the Indian hemp possesses no power in mitigating the attacks of epilepsy, at least in the same doses and under the same conditions in which it unquestionably relieves the paroxysms of migraine; and these experiments somewhat negative the old saying that epileptics will improve temporarily under *any* new treatment.

During the time the Indian hemp was being administered five of the patients lost weight, the average loss being one pound and a half; and four gained weight, the average gain being one pound and a quarter.

If it be true that there is a close alliance between epilepsy and migraine, it is not a little strange that victims of the former all but invariably become worse and worse as their years increase, while with the latter it is by no means unusual—in fact, it is a very common occurrence—for the sufferer to "grow out" of it altogether as he passes middle life.

A Case of Chorea. By James Macfaren, L.R.C.S.E. Assistant Physician, Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

The points that make this case interesting and worth shortly noticing are not any peculiarities in the symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment, but the following facts:—That the disease came on at an age when it is extremely rare, that its duration has been unusually long, and that there is an

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absence, as far as can be ascertained, of any of the usual predisposing or exciting causes.

J. C., æt. 46, unmarried, was admitted to the Royal Edinburgh Asylum on January 26th, 1874. He had been apprehended by the police on a charge of being drunk, but as the supposed symptoms of intoxication did not abate after a couple of days in the cells he was certified insane and sent to the asylum. On admission he was not found to have any marked exaltation, depression, excitement, or enfeeblement. His memory was good, he could answer questions well, and was coherent. Had no delusions, as far as could be ascertained. Was very pale, and exhausted looking. Pulse 60, very weak. Temperature 97·6. Pupils dilated. Tongue clean. Appetite voracious. Bowels regular. Reflex action and sensation exaggerated. Had constant choreic twitchings of his limbs, which were never still for an instant. Was always swinging his head about, and jerking it from side to side. When asked to put out his tongue, could not do so for some time, and suddenly protruded and withdrew it. Both sides were equally affected, and there was no appreciable difference between the sensory and motor symptoms of either half of the body. Owing to the incessant movements of the head, lips, and tongue, he spoke with difficulty, and gave the impression of doing so in an imbecile manner; but when care was taken with him the defect was found to be almost entirely physical. The account he gave of himself was that up till six years ago he was a very healthy man, and during his life he never seems to have suffered from any disease serious enough to leave an impression on his mind. Was of sober and industrious habits, and worked steadily at his trade of a sawyer, till about the time mentioned, when he began to suffer from severe frontal headache, and to have occasional involuntary twitchings of his muscles, but where they first began he cannot say. They gradually got so bad as to incapacitate him for his trade, and he had to take to begging to earn his livelihood, and used, he says, to attract crowds about him by the extravagancies of the gestures he had involuntarily indulged in. During the six years he has had the disease there has been no change in the symptoms. He never sustained any injury to his head, and no members of his family were affected with the same disease or with insanity. He never to his knowledge suffered from rheumatic fever, and there is no history of his ever being exposed to fright, or to any of the usual causes of chorea. It is, perhaps, worth mentioning that he states that some years ago an elder brother of his suffered from "brain fever," but he cannot give any particulars as to the symptoms of the seizure. It is just possible that the attack may have been one of mania, and if so it would tend to show the existence of a *neurosis* in the family, which, in his case, has manifested itself in the chorea. His heart has been repeatedly examined, both while he was at rest and after exercise. Its action is weak, but there is no murmur detectable. The mental symptoms

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have all along been very slight. There is, perhaps, a trace of enfeeblement, but it is anything but well marked, and the nearest approach he has shown to unsoundness of mind is an occasional attack of extreme irritability on very slight provocation. The treatment has consisted of nourishing diet, a small allowance of stimulants, and ʒj dose of bromide of potassium three times a day. For the first few days he did not improve as regards the chorea, though he gained strength. After that the twitchings decreased remarkably, and his temperature, which formerly had a tendency to rise at night, became more steady. He is now gaining flesh and generally doing well.

PART II.—REVIEWS.

A Treatise on Medical Electricity, Theoretical and Practical, and its Use in the Treatment of Paralysis, Neuralgia, and other Diseases. By JULIUS ALTHAUS, M.D. 3rd Edition.

A Handbook of Medical Electricity. By HERBERT TIBBITS, M.D.

Lectures on the Clinical Uses of Electricity. By J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D., F.R.S. 2nd Edition.

"There are few remedies employed in the treatment of disease on the value of which the professional mind is less settled than on that of galvanism." Such is the opening statement in the preface to the first edition of Dr. Althaus' work, a book well deserving the attention of all medical men, both for the fairness of its observations and the extent of its information. In fact, there is no other in the English language so complete and so useful on this subject. The present edition is a vast improvement on the last; not only is it much increased in size, but a great deal has been left out, and its place supplied by other and more useful information. We especially commend it to the attention of alienists as containing much that is valuable in the treatment of mental disease. For, if the above statement may be applied to the profession generally, it may with increased force be applied to alienists especially.

That a remedy of such value has not been hitherto so much studied as it deserves, is a matter for deep regret, and particularly as this neglect has arisen from a deep-seated prejudice. This prejudice, in its turn, has arisen from ignorance of the real nature of the remedy, from the want of success

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