"2. That every patient on admission shall be most carefully examined by a medical officer, and a full account drawn out at the time of—1st, his or her mental symptoms; 2nd, his or her bodily state and symptoms, special attention being directed to the discovery of any functional or organic disorder of any of the organs of the body; 3rd, any injuries that he or she may have received.

"3. That the medical and moral treatment of the individual cases, especially of the recent and curable cases, be the first duty of the medical officers, and shall under no circumstances be made subservient to any general superintendence.

"4. That the classification of the patients shall be chiefly regulated with the view of promoting the comfort and recovery of the curable patients."

Rule 19, before referred to, is as follows:—

"19. That a *post-mortem* examination be made in the case of every patient who dies, and a minute and careful record made of the appearances found, it being competent for the Medical Officer to omit this if he should consider it dangerous for him to perform such examination, in which cases he shall state the fact in the *post-mortem* register."

These rules were approved by the Home Secretary and the Commissioners in Lunacy.

Hydrate of Chloral.

In his last report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum, Dr. Mackintosh makes the following remarks on the hydrate of chloral:—

In my last report I alluded to the new drug chloral hydrate, and as we have since used it to a great extent here, I think it proper to state the results of our experience. It has been given principally in the form of syrup, in doses varying from ten to forty grains, rarely exceeding eighty grains in the course of twenty-four hours. In general, it induces sleep for several hours continuously, and this too, although taken for a length of time. The patients capable of giving correct answers state that its effects are most soothing and agreeable to their feelings. Some of them are very fond of it; but a common complaint among the melancholies is, that when it does not cause sleep, it slightly intoxicates them. In many instances, especially in acute mania, it has completely failed, and markedly so in cases of recurrent mania, where, however, we should add, no kind of medicine seems to abate or arrest the progress of the paroxysm. In the case of some patients, it has a tendency to relax the bowels, and never constipates them; it very seldom causes nausea or headache, and the tongue is

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not found to be dry, as it is after the use of morphia and other sedatives. We must say that we have proved it to be a valuable medicine in cases of insanity and delirium tremens; no bad symptom has been caused by its administration in our practice, and it is more harmless and safe than any other hypnotic known to us.

Dr. Mackintosh appends these remarks on the medical treatment of wet patients:—

Many of the class of wet patients have derived great benefit from the exhibition of a combination of the tinctures of the muriate of iron and belladonna. In some it cured the habit in a short time. In several of the dements, however, after often trying them without the mixture, it had to be repeated again and again before the habit was checked.

In the Annual Report of the Joint Counties Asylum, at Carmarthen, Dr. Hearder thus speaks of the hydrate of chloral:—

As regards the remedial value of medicines used, the chloral hydrate certainly claims the foremost place. In the majority of cases it may be relied upon to produce sleep, and that without causing disorder of the digestive organs or other unsatisfactory results. In other cases 30 grains have been administered every three hours for several days without producing marked effects. Full particulars of the recorded observations of the action of this drug will be reported to the Therapeutical Committee of the Medico-Psychological Society. In several cases I have noticed that it has caused a state of chronic lachrymation, the features being contorted as in uncontrolled grief, and the depressing emotions rendered morbidly active. One female, suffering from chronic mania, the most violent and ungovernable patient in the house, from whose breast every touch of human sympathy or feeling had apparently disappeared years ago, became most markedly affected in this manner, and called, in agonised tones, on her "dear mother," at the same time shedding tears copiously. The effect passed off in about an hour, and, the dose of the remedy being diminished, has not again been produced. This woman has become quiet, harmless, patient, and obedient.

Chloroform in Convulsions.

Dr. Hearder, in the same report, gives his experience of the use of chloroform in convulsions:—

For many years it has been my practice to administer chloroform in all cases of continued convulsions, with unequivocal and unvarying

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