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.

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### *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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success. In epilepsy, when the attacks occur at long intervals, and then appear in rapid succession, one fit as it were producing and being continuous with the next, the inhalation of chloroform, in my experience, at once interrupts the convulsions, causing, first, intermissions, and then, if the administration of the remedy be continued, entire cessation of all irregular muscular action. In the convulsive stage of general paralysis, I have obtained the same results. These results are entirely opposed to the experience of other observers. Van der Kolk writes thus:—"Epileptic attacks are usually so much promoted by chloroform, that this agent has been recommended as a means of distinguishing true from feigned epilepsy; and in the few cases in which I have tried chloroform, I found severe epileptic attacks to ensue, which deterred me from its further use."

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### *A Persistent Delusion.*

In the Report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum, for 1870, is mentioned a case in which refusal of food has lasted now for *nearly three years*, and still continues:—

It is remarkable that one of the male patients, who does not hesitate to take certain kinds of medicine readily, refuses all kind of nourishment under the delusion that it is "drugged." In consequence he has been fed thrice daily, by means of the stomach-pump, for nearly three years. He will not leave his bed, although quite able to be out of it; but, notwithstanding such confinement and artificial alimentation, his bodily condition keeps pretty good.

It would be interesting to learn the result of the experiment of obliging this patient to leave his bed, like other mortals, and of allowing him to remain entirely without food for a few days, unless he chose to take it voluntarily. If he could not be prevailed upon to take food, he might at any rate be prevailed upon to leave his bed, and perhaps if he did that he might after a time begin to take food.

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### *A Singular Mania.*

The following account of an extraordinary mania is from the *North British Mail*:—

There has just been buried at Fraserburgh a man of over threescore, who, during the last twenty or thirty years of his life, displayed such a proclivity for witnessing coffin-building and funerals as amounted

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