

consulted. In thirty days the gentleman died. He had intrusted his affairs to me, and I paid his bills. The charge of the surgeon was five thousand francs! The bills of the nurses, hotels, attendants, &c., were of a similar character. A young physician, who had been employed fourteen days as a nurse, estimated his services at fifteen hundred francs! I make these remarks, that my countrymen going to Paris for medical or surgical advice, may be duly warned against placing themselves in the hands of rash, unprincipled practitioners. A great name in Paris is by no means a guarantee of that care, prudence and conscientiousness, which belong to the physician at home."

Mr. Goodrich's remarks upon nervous irritability, &c., put me in mind of a case to which I was myself called not many years past. It was that of a physician, a very close and profound student, whose many publications are well and extensively known and appreciated. He was laboring under what he termed and considered palpitation of the heart. My first prescription was chloroform, the maximum dose not to exceed sixteen drops; which he took with immediate relief, and expressed his wonder that he had not thought of the same remedy, himself.

JOSEPH COMSTOCK, M.D.

Lebanon, Conn., Oct., 1862.

P.S. This is perhaps from the oldest living writer of your Journal. I was 85, the second day of January last, and write this without spectacles, which I have never used.

J. G.

CASE OF POISONING BY CANNABIS INDICA

By FRANCIS H. BROWN, M.D., CAMBRIDGE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

On the 11th of April last, I was called to see C. C., a druggist's clerk, who had been experimenting with Indian hemp. About 4, P.M., he had taken half a grain of extract *cannabis Indica*; at 4½, half a grain more; at 4¾, one grain more; at 5, two grains; and at 5½, still again, two grains—in all, six grains of the solid extract. Took tea, as usual, about 6½.

At 7½, noticed that he felt somewhat nervous and dizzy, and that he gave wrong change to a customer. A few minutes after, when out on an errand, felt an irresistible inclination to run; at the same time a sense of "contraction" of entire genito-urinary organs and great desire to urinate, with much strangury on passing water; also excessive dryness of fauces, coming on suddenly and with much thirst. On returning to his place of business, patient found it impossible to keep still, on account of an irresistible desire to be constantly on his feet. At this point I first saw him—found him walking, at a quick pace, almost on his toes, round a room about eight feet square. Within a few minutes, spasms supervened, during which, at times, the flexors and extensors, at times the abductors and adductors of

the whole body, were thrown into violent alternate action. While sitting in a chair, one minute his feet would beat a tattoo on the floor; and the next, his knees beat violently together. The spasms increased in severity and frequency for half an hour, and then gradually diminished, after emesis had been induced. Patient could, by strong exercise of his will, restrain the spasms; but, on fresh access, they were much more violent. They were unaccompanied by pain; but, after a time, he experienced a sense of weariness, as after the spasms of tetanus.

Patient describes his mind as being "dull" and somewhat confused, but says, that, at no time, did he lose consciousness in any degree. At no time any delirium. At but one time did he experience any mental disturbance, when he thought the vomitus was the head of a hippopotamus, and again a bunch of earth worms. He noticed that, if anything ludicrous were said or done, or any idea suggested, which required more than the most common exercise of mind, the spasms were considerably intensified.

The senses of seeing and feeling were somewhat diminished; other senses perfect. Had tinnitus aurium. Pupils unchanged at any time; conjunctivæ much congested. Pulse, at 8½, about 140, somewhat irregular in character and frequency. At 10, pulse 90. Patient got an active emetic, which caused vomiting of ingesta, having the odor of Indian hemp.

The symptoms lasted, in severity, about an hour; then gradually diminished. Had a few more spasms during the night, but not severe. Twenty-four hours later, the desire for constant motion and an occasional slight spasm persisted; but these soon passed away, and the patient was well.

October 30th, 1862.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL AT NEWBERN, N. C.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Academy Hospital, Newbern, N. C., Oct. 20th, 1862.

MR. EDITOR,—I send you a contribution to the surgical history of the war, in the form of a tabular statement of operations and their results, from March 19th to October 1st, at this General Hospital, of which I have been in charge during the whole period. I include in this statement operations done on the field when the patients were immediately afterwards brought into hospital.

Amputation of Thigh.—Primary, 5; with 4 recoveries.
Secondary, 2; " no "

Amputation of Leg.—Primary, 3; with 3 recoveries.
Secondary, 4; " 3 "

Amputation of Arm.—Primary, 7; with 5 recoveries.
Secondary, 1; " no "