

When the hypodermic method is entirely abandoned for the oral method, it may be advisable temporarily to increase the daily allowance of narcotic.

It is better to give the daily quantity in a few doses administered at long intervals, rather than in small doses at short intervals.

One should be reserved for the night to promote sleep, and one for the morning—the time above all others when the patient craves for the drug; without it he may be incapable of getting up.

Acidosis and constipation are best combated by bi-carbonate of soda (3½-31) and cascara. Strychnine is a useful tonic. Bromides help to quiet nervousness. For the relief of the distressing pains mygrone is useful.

One of the most troublesome symptoms calling for treatment is sleeplessness. Among the most effective hypnotics are dial ciba, medinal, veronal, sulphonal, luminal sodium, paraldehyde, chloral and chloretone, to be given in certain prescribed doses.

Rapid Withdrawal.

This method necessitates confinement. In the milder cases rapid withdrawal may be effected without recourse to hyoscine. We will suppose the daily allowance of the drug to have been reduced to one grain of morphine. The patient is given a warm bath at bedtime, followed by a brisk laxative and the usual dose of morphine. A saline purge is administered in the morning, and half-an-hour later 20 grains of sodium bromide with 15 grains of sulphonal. No further morphine is given.

Directly urgent withdrawal symptoms appear the patient is immersed in a hot bath and a bag of ice applied to the head, or he may be given a hot pack, followed after slowly cooling down by salt massage. This treatment is repeated, if necessary, several times during the 24 hours, the patient being encouraged meanwhile to drink as much hot water as possible, and to take an abundance of nutritious food. Bromides and hypnotics are administered according to circumstances. Unsteadiness of the heart may be relieved by hyperdermic injections of digitalis.

This active treatment is continued for 48-60 hours, but hypnotics and bromides need to be given some days longer as well as drugs for the relief of leg pains.

The craving for the customary narcotic may be relieved by the administration of dionine and codeine, preferably the former. If these drugs alone are ineffective, a small dose of heroine may be given in addition.

Another method of rapid withdrawal is carried out with the help of hyoscine, and consists in the production of mild hyoscine delirium (twilight sleep) for 36-48 hours, and the administration of pilocarpine to promote elimination.

Mild hyoscine intoxication may continue for some days after the last dose of the drug. During this time there is no craving, but withdrawal pains are apt to supervene and the patient needs to be kept under treatment for some time longer. Bromide of sodium may be needed to allay nervousness, hypnotics to promote sleep, and mygrone to relieve the painful limbs.—“The Nursing Mirror.”

Sayings of Children

A small boy with prominent ears was being teased by his aunt. She caught hold of one of his ears and asked him: “What is this? Is it detached, or part of you?” “It is all part of me—all one slab of boy, all one body we, as they say in ‘Onward Christian Soldiers!’”

The same small boy was having a Bible lesson about the Israelites going into the

Promised Land. He was told that after the spies had returned the Israelites had been stopped by a river. “But how did the spies get across?” “They went over at a different place—by a ford.” “By a Ford car, auntie?”

One day he was being scolded for being naughty. He retorted: “What’s the good of ‘naughty’ if you can’t be it?”