

On the By-effects of, and the Indications for, Hyoscine Hydrobromide
[*Ueber die Nebenwirkungen und Indicationen des Hyoscinum Hydrobromicum*]. (*Psychiatr. Wochenschr.*, No. 27, 1900.) Klein, Ferdinand.

This interesting contribution deals with the use of hyoscine in the treatment of the acute psychoses, concerning the efficacy of which opinions differ so widely. The *objective* by-effects are first briefly recorded, viz., the primary vascular excitement, and then its subsidence with retardation of the pulse, then the sluggish, clumsy, and inco-ordinate movements, the dilatation and slow reaction of the pupil, then the deep sleep of four to six hours' duration. The primary reddening of the face gives way to pallor; and the mucous membranes become slightly cyanotic. Dr. Klein points out that the symptoms of depression, though still occurring, no longer show the severe collapse of former times which resulted from the use of what we now know to have been impure forms of hyoscine.

The occasional appearance of passing erythemas at the site of injection is mentioned, also of inflammatory infiltrations; the local irritation of hyoscine considerably exceeding that of morphia.

Dangerous collapse symptoms were never witnessed with the occasional use of the drug in the dose of $\frac{1}{40}$ to $\frac{1}{70}$ grain.

When used repeatedly the drug quickly loses its power, the dose requiring to be raised; further, restlessness and mental distress and irritability appear to increase, and with these there develops cachexia with rapid falling off in weight.

The subjective sensations after hyoscine injections include severe pain at the site of the injection, quickly followed by dryness of the throat and a sense of constriction; great thirst may set in. A feeling of painful apprehension and dread of extinction may arise; sounds appear to come from a distance, things look misty and doubled, the patient is restless yet painfully conscious of his muscular weakness.

Rarer by-effects are certain paræsthesias, *e. g.*, sensations of heat and cold and the creeping sensation accompanying goose-skin. Such paræsthesias may give rise to hallucinations, *e. g.*, that the bed is full of caterpillars. Besides these Dr. Klein insists on a special type of hallucinations of vision, which in his cases consisted in the appearance of snakes or lizards. In some of his cases hallucination of taste was likewise excited.

With the cessation of the medicine the hallucinations subside quickly, they do not develop into fixed ideas.

Dr. Klein considers that the development of the hallucinations of vision was so definite that it raises the question of specificity, *i. e.*, that to one poison may belong one special type or group of hallucinations. Of this phenomenon he invites particular study.

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The Therapeutics of Epilepsy [*Therapeutische Leistungen und Bestrebungen auf dem Gebiete der Epilepsie*]. (*Psychiatr. Wochenschr.*, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 1900.) Donath, J.

The writer surveys the whole field of treatment of this affection—medicinal, dietetic, operative, social. He points out that the great