

and accompanied by tracheal rales. There was no response to any except painful stimuli, and then only by groans or facial contractions. Tendon reflexes slightly increased; pupils sluggish. The face was congested but not cyanosed, and the pulse and breathing were good. These symptoms had developed within some ten to twelve hours after the taking of the above-mentioned dose. On the following day head retraction was observed, and twitchings of the trunk, somewhat tetaniform in character. A pemphigoid eruption was then noted, the blisters on erythematous bases. The urine (removed by catheter) alkaline and dark, but no blood, albumen, or sugar. Pulse 108, fairly vigorous, but the respiration shallow and with occasional pauses.

On the fourth day the stupor had quite disappeared, and the patient was steadily recovering.

Dr. Hald is of opinion that the head retraction and the tetaniform twitchings may have a certain diagnostic value, as similar symptoms were observed in Gerhartz's case of veronal poisoning.

The probability is that the whole of the 9 grammes were absorbed, as the washing out of the stomach did not occur till eight hours had elapsed.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

On the Hypnotic Action of Neuronal [*Über die hypnotische Wirkung des Neuronal*]. (*Psych. Neurol. Wochenschr.*, June 18th, 1904.) Siebert, A.

Dr. Arthur Siebert describes his results in the Bonn Asylum with this new hypnotic. Over one hundred patients received the drug in the average dose of 1 gramme, and in about 25 *per cent.* of the cases $\frac{1}{2}$ gramme sufficed; only very occasionally was the dose of 1.5 grammes necessary.

Neuronal is bromyl-diethyl-acetamide; it is obtained by the replacement in the acetamide molecule of 3 atoms of hydrogen by 1 atom of bromine and 2 ethyl groupings respectively. It is a white crystalline powder freely soluble in ether, benzol, alcohol, and oil, but relatively insoluble in water, 1 in 115 parts; this solubility in water is, however, much freer than that of either sulphonal or trional. The drug has a cool, bitter, somewhat menthol-like taste, which seems in certain of the cases to have caused much complaint and to have given rise to discomfort in the œsophagus, eructations, and in two cases to vomiting.

Dr. Siebert considers that the hypnotic value of neuronal is about equal to that of trional—that it is less than that of veronal, as 2 : 3, but greater than that of chloral hydrate, as 2 : 1.5, and greater than dormiol, as 2 or 2.5 : 1.5. The effective doses of these drugs severally will, therefore, be in inverse proportion to these ratios.

In price it about equals veronal, therefore has the great disadvantage of costliness as compared with the equally effective trional.

HARRINGTON SAINSBURY.

A Year's Experience of the Lumbar Puncture [*Un an de ponctions lombaires*]. (*Gaz. des Hôp.*, June 29th, 1904.) Chauffard et Boidin.

We have here the results of a series of observations carried on at the Hôpital Cochin during a period of twelve months. In 140 patients