

5. Treatment.

Production of Sleep and Rest in Psychotic Cases: Preliminary Report.
(*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, August, 1930.) Bleckivenn, W. J.

The author administered amytal (sodium isoamylethylbarbiturate) intravenously in more than fifty cases of all types of psychosis. Patients with mental excitement and agitation fell into profound sleep followed by a phase of physical and mental relaxation lasting from 12 to 18 hours. The natural sleep following the period of relaxation was the most desirable result obtained. Narcosis was induced on an empty stomach. The dose varied from 7–15 gr. The blood-pressure fell in the first hour. The method facilitates tube-feeding and the handling of patients with acute delirium. *Status epilepticus* can be controlled. The intravenous injection of amytal is contra-indicated where there is advanced myocarditis or generalized arterio-sclerosis.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Therapeutic Value of High Temperature Baths in Multiple Sclerosis. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, August, 1930.)
Lindemulder, F. G.

The author treated twelve cases of multiple sclerosis by means of high temperature baths. These were given every second day, or in some cases daily for a course of eleven baths. The patient was immersed up to the neck in a continuous bath at 104° F. for 10 minutes, and then the temperature was raised to 110° for 30 minutes and brought down to 104° for 20 minutes, making a total of one hour in the bath. When the mouth temperature was at its highest the patient would be restless and confused. After the maximum fever there was a period of mental depression. Occasionally the patients would become irrational and it would be difficult to restrain them in the bath. The highest mouth temperature obtained was 108.2° F. Maxima varied between 106° and 108.2°. Usually the temperature could be maintained above 104° F. for at least one hour and a half, often for two hours. Nine patients gained weight, the average being 3 lb. Fowler's solution with iron, quinine and strychnine was given during the series of baths. There appeared to be no marked ill-effects. Four of the patients showed a decided improvement, two seemed much worse. The interval since treatment was too brief to allow of a definite conclusion as to its efficacy.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Spinal Drainage in Alcoholic Deliria. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*,
September, 1930.) Goldsmith, H.

Since the advent of prohibition acute alcoholic psychoses have greatly increased, and grave toxic reactions tend to occur. Spinal drainage is an effective mode of treatment in these cases. It is attended by very slight sequelæ, and the period of detention in hospital has been materially reduced. The treatment is most