It is, for instance, by no means always easy to distinguish between supra- and infra-phrenic effusions, and, on the right side, abscess between the liver and diaphragm has frequently been mistaken for hepatic abscess—similarly with perinephric abscess. (Cf. an interesting paper by Dr. Hilton Fagge, Guy's Hospital Reports, 1874).

Another point deserving of notice is the remarkable resistance which the two great serous membranes, the pleura and the peritoneum, oppose to the invasion of suppuration from without. Notwithstanding their proximity to a collection of fetid and gangrenous material, and this for a long time, neither membrane was affected to any extent with recent inflammation, and neither serous sac contained fluid.

That extra-pleural abscess may penetrate the pleura appears from an instructive case recorded by Dr. Halley in the "Transactions of the Pathological Society of London, 1855."

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ART. VI.—Chloralamide as a Hypnotic for the Insane. By GEORGE P. COPE, L.K.Q.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.; Senior Assistant Resident Medical Superintendent, Richmond District Asylum, Dublin.

I owe my first acquaintance with chloralamide to the good nature of Sir John Banks, K.C.B., who, knowing the interest which we take in the Richmond Asylum in new drugs of the hypnotic class, drew my attention, with his usual kindness, to Drs. Hagen and Hüfle's observations in the Münchener medizinische Wochen-schrift, No. 30, 1889. My chief was so good as to allow me to apply this drug in any case which I thought suitable. The results have seemed so satisfactory that I am disposed to think it is a valuable addition to our list of soporifics.

Chloralamide is a product of the direct combination of chloral anhydride and formamide in molecular quantities, represented by the formula \( \text{CCl}_3\text{H}_{10}\text{NHCHO} \). In substance it has the appearance of colourless crystals, and is stated to be soluble in nine parts of water. Dr. Casswell Harrison (The Pharmaceutical Journal, September 7th, 1889) states:—"I have failed to dissolve 20 grains in 240 fluid grains of water, the actual solubility being about 1 in 14." It is not unpleasant to the taste, although slightly bitter, nor is it astringent. In some instances 25 to 30 grains produced sound and apparently refreshing sleep, but with the majority of the cases which I noted I found that 35 to 45 grains were necessary.
Chloralamide as a Hypnotic for the Insane.

I am not aware of the general use of this medicine in Ireland, but Dr. Paterson, of Cardiff (The Lancet, October 26th, 1889), has given an account of the result of its trial in fourteen cases of insomnia, embracing patients suffering from phthisis and heart disease, with very encouraging results. It is important to note that Dr. Patterson observed that chloralamide checked the night sweating of phthisis, and in proof that chloralamide may be safely administered to persons suffering from cardiac disease, phthisis, and pneumonia, I have selected for notice some cases (Nos. 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12) in which one of these ailments existed. I have also closely observed the effect of chloralamide as a sleep-producing agent on twenty-five patients suffering from insanity under my immediate care, and the following are brief notes taken by me of the cases which I deemed the most interesting:—

Case I.—E. H., female, aged twenty-eight, admitted March 5th, 1887. A case of recurrent melancholia. The attacks are characterised by complete absence of sleep, great anxiety, and general restlessness, with suicidal tendencies. Towards the latter end of November, while the patient was suffering from one of these outbursts, I administered 30 grains of chloralamide at 9 o'clock; fell asleep 45 minutes after the draught, and slept six hours. The following night at 8.30 she received the medicine; was asleep at 9 o'clock p.m.; at 2 a.m. she got out of bed. Night nurse reported that patient staggered as if under the influence of drink; remained quiet, but did not sleep for the rest of the night. Patient continued receiving this medicine for eight nights consecutively with no bad results. Average time slept, six hours.

Case II.—M'C., female, aged forty-five, admitted October 25th, 1889. A case of melancholia, with suicidal tendencies. Delusions that she has committed an unpardonable crime; that she is going to be killed; says, "I would prefer to die by my own hands;" has made several attempts to do so; extremely restless, excitable, and devoid of sleep; cannot be kept in bed at night. November 2nd, at 8.30 p.m., she received 3iii. of elixir of chloralamide (30 grains). The draught had the desired effect; the sleep produced was unbroken and natural. Chloralamide was continued for four nights; discontinued two; resumed for eight nights consecutively. Average sleep, eight hours, with no bad symptoms. Patient now sleeps the greater part of the night.

Case III.—B. H., female, aged thirty-two, admitted October 13th, 1888. A case of melancholia agitata. For some time previous to

* Dr. Patterson, Cardiff, also noted a similar effect with chloralamide.