

*Epilepsy and Serum-therapy.* (*Riv. di patol. nerv. e ment.*, Sept., 1903.)  
Catòla.

Dr. Catòla records results similar to Sala and Rossi (see above). He concludes that Ceni's views are neither confirmed by the results of direct experiment, nor are they justified theoretically from a consideration of the phenomena of cellular biology. Dr. Catòla's cases were seven in number, and they were carefully selected so as to make them as favourable as possible from Ceni's point of view.

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*Paraldehyde Delirium and the Effects of Paraldehyde* [*Ueber Paraldehydelir und über die Wirkungen des Paraldehydes*]. (*Monats. f. Psychiat. und Neurolog.*, Aug., 1903.) Probst, M.

Paraldehyde was first used by Cervello in 1883 as a hypnotic. It was found that injections of from two to three grammes in rabbits and dogs in five minutes caused narcosis lasting for six or seven hours. In larger doses, it causes death through paralysis of respiration with reflexes diminished. Bokai and Barcsi thought that after taking paraldehyde the vessels of the brain were widened, whereas Curci states that the drug causes anæmia of the brain, as do chloroform, ether, and chloral. It is agreed that large doses of paraldehyde paralyse the inhibitory powers of the intestines, the result being much peristaltic action.

Cappelli and Brugia were able to study the effects of paraldehyde on two men in whom there was a gap in the bony covering of the roof of the skull. They could observe a slight shrinking of the volume of the brain, and noted, with Mosso's sphygmograph, first a diminution and then a considerable increase of volume in the forearm. The ordinary effect of a dose of paraldehyde is a pleasant feeling of warmth from five to fifteen minutes after, then drowsiness, passing into a dreamless sleep which lasts for about seven hours. The reflex excitability is somewhat lessened, though the pupils still react. The temperature sinks slightly. The pulse is a little slower, but fuller; the respiration deeper and less frequent. The smell of the drug exhaled by the lungs lasts till the next day. It cannot be traced in any other excreta.

Paraldehyde has been used on a great scale in the asylum at Vienna, and Dr. Probst regards it as the least harmful of all the hypnotics in use. Quantities much greater than the ordinary medicinal doses have been taken without loss of life; indeed, there is no instance on record of poisoning with paraldehyde.

Krafft-Ebing mentions a man who for a year took about thirty-five grammes of paraldehyde every day, the result being trembling and muscular weakness and dulness of feeling. Another patient daily took five grammes for thirteen years with no bad effects. Dr. Mackenzie gives the case of a woman who by mistake swallowed three ounces of paraldehyde; she slept for thirty-four hours; the pulse rose to 120, the respiration from 40 to 60. Probst observed a patient with myelitis who took fifty grammes of paraldehyde; he slept for twenty hours and then recovered. He also describes at length the case of a lady thirty-eight years of age, who had for several years been given to the misuse of