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Key passages

COMPARISON OF THE NARCOTIC EFFECTS OF THE TWO HYOSCINES (SCOPOLAMINES).

BY

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Professor Cushny recently asked me to compare the effects on the higher mental processes of dextro- and laevo-rotatory hyoscines, and I have done so on two lines of investigation: first, as regards their efficacy in producing "twilight" sleep, and secondly, their effects in controlling restlessness in cases of insanity.

The twilight sleep observations were carried out at the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital, on cases under Dr. R. W. Johnstone's charge. Nearly 40 cases were recorded, but in many the drug was started late in labour, or was given irregularly. After deducting these, 27 remain in which more satisfactory conditions were observed. As far as possible the two varieties were given in alternate cases, the dosage being based on the following standard:

First hour: Morphine sulphate $\frac{1}{6}$ gr. and hyoscine hydrobromide $\frac{1}{100}$ gr.

Second hour: Hyoscine $\frac{1}{200}$ gr.

Third and subsequent hours: Hyoscine $\frac{1}{450}$ gr.