Parliament, for which the diploma of this Board will be required, exempting the following persons from such requirement :

- a. Medical officers of the Army and Navy ;
- b. Diplomates in State Medicine, being M.D.s of any university of the United Kingdom ;
- c. Members of any College of Physicians, or Fellows (by examination) of any College of Surgeons in the United Kingdom, being twenty-five years of age, who shall hold a qualification in State Medicine, granted by any one of those Colleges, and approved by the General Medical Council ;
- d. All who at present hold any of the specified offices, or who may be appointed thereto within a period named in this Bill.

The proposed enactment would, therefore, apply only to future appointments, and would fully protect existing rights. The full benefit of the reform would thus be only gradually felt ; while the experience already gained, or in course of being gained, by those in office, would in the meantime be, as far as possible, utilised for the public benefit.

APOPLEXY, WITH CONVULSIONS AND HEMIPLEGIA IN THE PUERPERAL PERIOD, TERMINATING IN RECOVERY.*

By A. B. STEELE, L.K.Q.C.P.,

Lecturer on Midwifery Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, Liverpool.

THE following case being, so far as my observation extends, of an unusual, if not unique, character, and presenting features of much interest, I have deemed it worthy of record in this Section.

The patient is a young Jewess, of florid, dark complexion ; of low stature, inclined to fullness ; of a highly nervous and excitable temperament. She suffered in childhood from chorea, brought on, it was supposed, by a fright. This was relieved by prolonged treatment, including the baths and waters of Schwalbach. She married about three years ago, being then seventeen years of age, and became immediately pregnant, when the chorea returned, and, during the early months, was very severe and distressing, yielding, however, under a course of valerianate of zinc and aloes. Her first labour was in all respects favourable, except that the child, a male, was still-born. She was confined a second time in less than twelve months, of a fine healthy male child, in February, 1872 ; and a third time in February, 1873, of a living female child. Both these confinements were favourable, and her condition has been satisfactory, the only indications of nervous disturbance consisting in slight occasional choreic twitchings of the limbs. Her last labour was rapid and easy ; the membranes ruptured without pain, or, at least, with pain of the slightest possible degree, about forty-eight hours before active labour set in, and all was over in a few hours, the child being born before my arrival. Everything went on perfectly well for the first two weeks. I saw her on the thirteenth day, and found her doing most favourably in every respect. On the morning of the fourteenth day, she complained of a peculiar oppressive sensation, and confused feeling in the head, and begged the nurse to send at once for the doctor. On my arrival about two hours afterwards, I found her just recovering from what appeared to have been a puerperal convulsion, and was told that this was the second distinct fit since her seizure. She was unconscious, with stertorous breathing, and could not be roused ; the tongue protruded between the teeth, but was not bitten severely, although the jaws were rigidly closed. There was not the extreme fullness and turgescence of the veins of the head and neck usual in severe forms of congestive eclampsia ; the pulse was full and bounding ; the tongue clean. The bowels had been freely relieved shortly before. I opened a vein in the arm ; but, after the escape of about six ounces of blood, eclampsia came on, which obliged me to tie up the arm. This fit was only slight, appearing to be cut short by the immediate rapid administration of chloroform, which threw her into a quiet sleep, free from stertor or signs of distress. A large enema of turpentine was administered ; and ten grains of calomel were given by the mouth, followed by castor-oil. There was no return of eclampsia, but she remained unconscious until night, when she began to improve, and had some natural sleep.

The following morning, she appeared much better ; but, on proceeding to change her linen, it was found that she had lost both sensation

and motion in the left arm and leg ; the bladder was also paralysed, requiring the catheter. She was quite conscious, but excessively restless, excited, and unmanageable, talking coherently, but without intermission, in spite of all attempts to keep her quiet. The tongue was clean ; pulse 80 ; temperature normal ; urine free from albumen. The bowels had been copiously evacuated. She complained of pain in the right temple ; the tongue and face were slightly drawn to the left side ; pupils natural. A blister was applied to the neck ; ice-bladder to the shorn scalp ; and forty drops of Battley's sedative were thrown into the rectum. This procured a few hours' sleep ; but, the next day, the restlessness and unceasing talking recurred. A second opiate *per rectum* failed to quiet her ; but a scruple of chloral hydrate gave sound sleep for several hours, after which she was calmer and quieter, and free from headache.

For the four following days she remained in a state of alternate sleep and excitement ; the chloral, in half-drachm doses night and morning, kept her quiet for several hours during each day ; but, in the intervals, the restlessness and constant talking were most distressing. She was occasionally incoherent, and evidently had delusions ; believed she was dying ; felt an uncontrollable impulse to bite those around her, and did actually seize the nurse's arm with her teeth. She was only prevented from further violence by her helpless condition from the paraplegia. Her condition now caused much anxiety, as it assumed the appearances of puerperal mania, the prognosis being still more unfavourable from the circumstance of an hereditary tendency to insanity. The chloral now appeared to lose much of its calmative effect, and a full dose of Battley was substituted ; but the result was not satisfactory ; and therefore it was determined to try the endemic use of morphia. One-fourth of a grain at once procured good sleep, from which she awoke much refreshed and comparatively calm. This was repeated every twelve hours for four or five days, during which time the excitement passed away, and natural sleep returned. The bladder gradually recovered its action, but the hand and arm remained completely paralysed as to motive power—sensation, however, being restored. She continued to improve ; and, at the end of the fourth week of the attack and the sixth week since her labour, she was able to leave her bed ; and, in a few days, was removed to the sea-side.

At the present time, she has so far recovered as to be able to walk fairly without assistance for upwards of a mile ; the power of the upper extremity is almost entirely restored, that of the leg becoming progressively greater ; and there is every prospect of complete recovery.

CASE OF SICK-HEADACHE TREATED WITH GUARANA POWDER.

By JAMES W. ALLAN, M.B., C.M., Medical Officer to the Belford Hospital, Fort William.

Mrs. H., aged 36, a big lymphatic woman, came under my care some time ago as an out-patient. She had been suffering from severe headache for many years before ; but, owing to the recent tragic death of a child, she had become very ill. The melancholy accident referred to had given her a terrible nervous shock. She had a severe flooding, which looked in many points like a case of abortion ; but, as she did not keep the substance which was discharged, we were left in doubt on that point. After the subsidence of this attack, the old standing malady—the sick-headache—demanded attention, as it was terribly distressing to the patient. It was a somewhat curious circumstance with regard to the headache, that, although it was never absent during the week, it always reached a sort of climax at the end of it. The patient had long been troubled by the presence of quantities of bile in her stomach in the morning. Any attempt to attend to the food-preparations for the family brought on severe nausea.

I thought the case to be one in which guarana was deserving of a fair trial. I prescribed the simple powder in ten-grain doses twice a day.

The patient called on June 1st. She had then taken eighteen powders, and, although not free from headache, thought herself very well, considering that this was usually the bad day of the week with her. This looked encouraging. I gave her two dozen ten-grain powders, and directed her to take one three times a day. This further trial of the drug did not prove satisfactory. The patient came to the conclusion that it was not giving her relief. Accordingly, the use of the guarana was abandoned, after what I consider to have been a fair trial.

On June 20th, she was given a mixture containing bromide of potassium and tincture of cascarrilla. On July 7th, she called for a fresh supply of the medicine, and reported herself to be very much better ; the headache was much relieved, and the appetite decidedly improved. She seemed quite satisfied that she had derived much more benefit from the mixture than she did from the powders.

* Read before the Obstetric Medicine Section at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in London, August 1873.