

uninterrupted development, and from marasmus of other kinds in the retention of the fat which covers the body. It has a superficial resemblance to albuminuria, but in pernicious anæmia the urine either contains no albumen or only a trace. The absence of enlargement of the spleen and lymphatic glands separates it from leucocythæmia, and the absence of pigmentation of the skin distinguishes it from Addison's disease. From the fact that all the early cases which were observed occurred in the neighborhood of Basle and Zurich, it was assumed that there must be some local cause for the affection, but of late, cases have been observed elsewhere.

NEUROMATA CURED BY SECTION OF A NERVE-TRUNK.—Professor Kosinski, of Warsaw, has cured a case of multiple neuromata by division of a nerve-trunk.

The patient, aged 30 years, presented himself on account of painful, knotty tumors, which were small and painless when he first noticed them, but which afterwards became increased in size and painful while he was performing long military marches. The tumors were on the upper and outer surfaces of the thigh and over part of the buttock; they were round or oval in shape, and varying in size from a pin's head to a hazel-nut. To determine their nature, one of the most painful was removed, and a microscopic examination showed it to consist of gray nerve-fibres mixed with fibrous tissue, indicating the probable origin in the cutaneous extremity of a nerve, obviously, from their situation, the small sciatic and external cutaneous.

After trying all sorts of medication without success, Professor Kosinski determined to excise a piece of the nerve, with the view of rendering the tumors painless, but without any expectation of diminishing their size. By an oblique incision, almost in the direction of the gluteal fold, the small sciatic nerve was reached, and a portion of it, an inch long, was removed as far as possible under the edge of the gluteus maximus. The immediate effect of the operation was the loss of sensibility in the tumors themselves, as well as in the whole region occupied by them. A few, however, on the anterior and outer parts of the thigh and in the sciatic region had their sensibility only partially destroyed. Whilst the wound was granulating, they began to diminish in size, so that at the end of a few weeks the larger ones had been reduced by a half and the smaller ones had almost completely disappeared. At the end of four months, it was ascertained that the process of disappearance was still going on, and that those which remained had become completely painless.—*Medical Times and Gazette*, Nov. 24, 1874.

APHORISMS FROM THE *Medicinisoh-Chirurgische Rundschau*.—*Whooping Cough.* "Whenever I observe a patient affected with a catarrh, accompanied by fifteen or twenty paroxysms of coughing in a minute, and particularly when this catarrh continues from four, six, eight to ten days, being attended with severe fever, I regard these symptoms as sufficient to justify the diagnosis of a specific catarrh (whooping cough).

"The initiatory fever of a bronchial catarrh seldom continues longer than forty-eight to seventy-two hours, except when capillary bronchitis is superadded. In children affected with whooping cough, the fever usually lasts, on the contrary, from seven to fourteen days.

"Whenever, in the course of a whooping cough, the number of paroxysms exceeds forty in twenty-four hours, the condition of the patient is to be regarded as critical. If it exceeds sixty, the physician is justified in predicting an unfavorable termination to the disease.

"Whooping cough lasts, as a rule, between fifty and sixty days; in exceptional cases, eight days only or less. On the other hand, it is frequently prolonged to a period of several months, and even to an entire year.

"In the case of pregnant women suffering from whooping cough, an abortion appears to be induced in rare instances only.

"The longer and severer the last paroxysm in whooping cough, the sooner the next attack.

"Whooping cough, above all other bronchial affections, has a tendency to develop latent tuberculosis; and, for this reason, in the case of children belonging to tuberculous families, is to be regarded as a very dangerous disease.—TROUSSEAU, from the *German Translation of Culman*.

RECOVERY FROM MELANCHOLIA AFTER FOUR YEARS' REFUSAL OF FOOD.—A gentleman, aged forty, after increasing symptoms of mental depression, fell into a profound state of melancholia in June, 1870, and was sent to a private asylum, where he lay for four years in a complete state of inertness, rarely using a muscle voluntarily, except to clench his jaws when the attempt was made to feed him, and to close his eyelids and turn up the globes, when efforts were made to examine his eyes. During this entire period he would not speak or eat, and was forcibly fed, dressed and cared for; and although life was sustained, he became very much reduced. In May last, he suddenly woke up, as it were, into social life, spoke, ate, and although scarcely able to move at first, rapidly regained health, weight, and complete mental soundness. Asked to explain his behavior, he said that he was under a profound sense of personal degradation. He felt that he was growing into a kind of monster, unfit to live or even to be seen; that the birds on the trees were mocking at him, and that he was surrounded by devils.—*British Medical Journal*, Nov. 28, 1874.

It is proposed, at the University of Cambridge, to institute an examination specially designed for those intending to hold public appointments as officers of health. The following are recommended as subjects of examination:—

"1. Physics and chemistry; the principles of chemistry and methods of analysis, with especial reference to analyses (microscopical as well as chemical) of air and water; the laws of heat, and the principles of pneumatics, hydrostatics and hydraulics, with especial reference to ventilation, water-supply, drainage, construction of dwellings, and sanitary engineering in general. 2. Laws relating to public health. 3. Sanitary statistics. 4. Origin, propagation, pathology and prevention of epidemic and infectious diseases; effects of overcrowding, vitiated air, impure water, and bad or insufficient food; unhealthy occupations and the diseases to which they give rise; water-supply and disposal of sewage and refuse; nuisances injurious to health; distribution of diseases within the United Kingdom, and effects of soil, season and climate."—*British Medical Journal*, Dec. 5.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF APERIENTS AFTER OPERATIONS ON THE RECTUM.—In operations on the rectum, the practice hitherto has been to confine the bowels, by means of opium and a carefully restricted diet, for at least a week. To this practice may often be ascribed the failure to obtain adhesion by first intention, or breaking down of the adhesions the very first time the bowels are relieved. It has been recently proved that a regular daily evacuation of the bowels, by means of small doses of castor oil or some gentle saline aperient, favors the healing process, lessens the tendency to unhealthy inflammation and consequent non-union of the parts, and obviates the risk of the adhesions breaking down by the passage of the hardened mass of feces that had been allowed to accumulate in the rectum, or by the distension of the bowel by an enema administered by a careless nurse.—*British Medical Journal*, Dec. 5.

FREQUENCY OF RESPIRATION IN CHILDREN.—In new-born children, the frequency of respiration ranges from 23 to 44 a minute; between the ages of 1 and 4 it varies from 20 to 36, and in older children from 20 to 28.—Dr. A. MONTI, *Obst. Jahrb. f. Pad.*