

enjoyed good health up to that time and the third had manifested tabetic symptoms after an attack of influenza. While the symptoms of senile tabes are generally the same as those shown in earlier life, the progress is usually more rapid and has no pre-ataxic stage. In two of the cases noted, autopsy showed marked atheroma of the peripheral and large spinal arteries, with atrophy of the posterior roots and sclerosis of the posterior columns, as in ordinary tabes. The author concludes that senile tabes is not so closely related to syphilis as that of early life, while it may be indirectly attributed to any acute or chronic cause inducing degenerative changes in the arterial system, as senility, alcoholism or infectious disease, and very likely constitutes a manifestation of spinal arterio-sclerosis, rather than an effect of luetic infection of the nervous centers.

JELLIFFE.

CURE OF TUBERCULOUS MENINGITIS BY CREOSOTE. THOMALLA (Berlin. klin. Woch., June 16, 1902).

This author cites a case in which the use of creosote in generous quantities resulted in recovery of a patient suffering from tuberculous meningitis. In the treatment of the patient, reliance was placed on careful nourishment, the administration of potassium iodide and finally creosote. The subject of treatment was a young man of twenty whose parents had both died from tuberculosis, and who had already undergone cauterization for local tuberculous affections. The administration of creosote was begun at the commencement of the attack, the doses increasing from day to day until they reached the quantity of four and a half grams. administered in capsules three times each day. The diagnosis of this case was confirmed by Professors Von Michel and Gerhard. It would seem to be the opinion of several eminent practitioners that the drug should be administered in as large quantities as possible, inasmuch as it is rapidly eliminated. Thomalla limits the dose only at the point of toleration, and also calls attention to the fact that it is found in the blood serum in a like proportion. Others, among them Burlureaux and Chaunier, place the limit at five grams, the latter recommending it only in conjunction with outdoor treatment. It should be borne in mind that the efficacy of the use of creosote in the treatment of tuberculosis lies in its deadly effect upon the bacteria in the diseased tissues which it penetrates.

JELLIFFE.

THE VOLUNTARY ERECTION OF HUMAN HAIR. S. S. MAXWELL (Amer. Jour. Physiol., July 1, 1902).

The erection of the hair, by the contraction of the arrectores pilorum muscles attached to the hair follicles, through the stimulus of fright or cold, which cause a bulging of the hair-follicles (goose flesh) is well known. The author cites a case of a patient who could at will erect the hair by voluntary bulging of the hair follicles. No edema or resemblance to factitious urticaria or the reflexes ordinarily seen in cases highly neurotic were present; neither was there change in color, with the exception of a slight pallor caused by the vasomotor change. The condition could be best observed on the arm, thigh, back and hips, and associated with it a remarkable development of the dermal structures was observed. The young man also had unusual control over the muscles of the ears and face. All these powers of control appeared to be obtained by inheritance rather than practice, for the subject's father also possessed them to a remarkable degree. Whenever he induced the phenomena the patient underwent modifications of the movements of respiration, the breathing grew deeper or ceased momentarily, and the chest felt as if more than usual in the phase of inspiration. The move-