

permanent recovery ensued in one instance, 16.6 per cent. of the total; the patient remaining well seven and one-half years after operation.

Wassermann discusses the various indications for operation, the differential diagnosis of the disease for which the operation is practised, discusses the prognosis and treatment, presents an analytical table of all cases accessible to him on record and unrecorded, and adds an appendix of cases collected since his article was prepared, with additional tables which alter the percentages a little in some of the groups.

He commends laryngectomy in carcinoma in preference to giving the patient no chance for cure, and he believes that the freedom from pain and the hope of cure inspired for months, or for a year or two, as may be, are fully worth all the risks from submission to the operation.

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## DERMATOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA;

AND

HENRY W. STELWAGON, M.D.,

PHYSICIAN TO THE PHILADELPHIA DISPENSARY FOR SKIN DISEASES.

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### THE TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS WITH POTASSIUM IODIDE.

GUTTELINO, following Haslund, treated experimentally twenty-two cases of psoriasis with full doses of potassium iodide (*Weekbl. van het Nederl. Tijdschr. voor Geneesk.*, 1889, i. 17; *Therapeutische Monatshefte*, June, 1889). The highest dose per day was 850 grains; the same patient taking in all, in the course of the treatment, 115 ounces. The average dose was 150 to 300 grains a day, and the observation was made that if such doses failed to benefit, a larger quantity failed likewise. In five patients it was, on account of distressing iodine symptoms, necessary to discontinue the remedy. In several the disease remained stationary and uninfluenced after a certain point had been reached. In five cases complete recovery resulted. Iodine acne was noted in many of the cases; in one purpura, and in another œdema of the legs, and in another rheumatic pains in the limbs. Albuminuria was not observed, nor were any serious heart symptoms noted. The patients, it may be added, were, excepting the skin eruption, free from disease.

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### ANTHAROBIN.

ROSENTHAL'S experience (*Deutsche med. Wochenschrift*, August 22, 1889) with the external use of antharobin in certain diseases has been negative. It was applied in alcohol (antharobinspiritus), twenty per cent. strength.

In several cases of psoriasis, tinea versicolor, and ringworm of the scalp the action was at the best exceedingly slow and unsatisfactory. It stains the skin as well as the linen, and in curative power (psoriasis especially referred to) is not comparable to chrysarolin or pyrogallic acid.

#### ICHTHYOL IN CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

Series of therapeutical experiments have been made by KOPP (*Münchener medicinische Wochenschrift*, Nos. 35 and 36, 1889) regarding the value of ichthyol, internally and externally, in the treatment of certain cutaneous diseases. The results may be briefly summarized: In ooe rosacea the internal administration, about fifteen grains daily, appeared the more valuable, although improvement, usually temporary, could also be effected by external application of a ten per cent. solution or ointment. In simple acne, its external use was of decided advantage, and in some cases its internal administration was of service. In crsipelas the application of a thirty to fifty per cent. ointment was of benefit. In herpetic frost-bites of the first and second degree, the drug was efficacious, used variously in solution or ointment of ten to twenty per cent. strength. In eczema its local application was uncertain, and, upon the whole, without striking results. In several cases of the neurotic type it acted favorably. Given internally, it was useful in those cases in which digestive diarrhoea was a factor. In prurigo it proved far inferior to other known applications. Pruritus was treated both externally and internally with ichthyol, but the results were not encouraging. At times its application proved palliative. The benefit from its local use in scorbutic scicca was not sufficiently striking to warrant its employment in preference to the more common and less unpleasant methods. Internally, however, in several instances it appeared to possess some influence in preventing relapses.

#### DÜHRING'S DISEASE, AND A NEW VARIETY OF THE SAME.

Under this caption UNNA (*Monatshfte für praktische Dermatologie*, Bd. ix. No. 3) gives his views concerning the dermatitis herpetiformis of Dühring, which he would define as "a non-hereditary, chronic nerve-disease of the skin, not prejudicial to the general health, tending to regular recurrence at variable intervals, more or less universal distribution, and lesions of an erythematous-bullous type." In the diagnosis, first, relapses are looked upon as being absolutely indispensable, and in cases where these do not occur the author would hesitate to make the diagnosis of Dühring's disease. The second most important group of symptoms is that comprising itching and burning (the so-called "paræsthesias" of the author). Thirdly, the polymorphous character of the eruption is a striking feature; and, fourthly, the good general health of the patient is a point to which attention is called.

Unna suggests the name "hydroa" for the disease in place of that given by Dühring, and, further, would make four varieties, viz.: H. grave, H. benigna, H. gravidarum, and H. puerorum. The last named is described at length as a new variety, and is characterized by beginning in the early years of life; shows less tendency to polymorphism—being mostly papular—and is accompanied by pain rather than itching. Five cases are referred to.

## ERYTHEMA NODOSUM AND ALLIED ERUPTIONS.

BAUMLER, of Freiburg (*Wiener klin. Wochenschrift*, No. 45, 1889), who believes erythema multiforme and erythema nodosum to be forms of the same disease, discusses erythema nodosum and its possible causes, and expresses the opinion that it is to be regarded as an infectious disease, a view that has of late years been gaining ground in Germany and France. As reasons, the author gives—the often severe general character of the affection; the high, long-continued fever of a remittent type; the inflammation of the skin and mucous membrane sometimes leading to the formation of pustules; the affection of the joints, sheaths of the tendons, serous membranes, and endocarditis. With such manifestations the erythematous or nodose varieties of the disease may bear the closest resemblance to other well-known infectious diseases, such as varicella, variola, and syphilis, with which they may be (and have been) confounded, as Hutchinson and Lewin have in former years shown. Reference is made to the observations of Uffelmann and Oehme, in 1876, who attempted to show some relation between erythema nodosum and (the now recognized infectious disease) tuberculosis.

## ELEPHANTIASIS AND ITS TREATMENT BY ELECTRICITY.

SILVA ARAUJO (*Atlas des Maladies de la Peau*, 3<sup>me</sup> fascicule, 1889), of Rio de Janeiro, gives his experience, extending over many years, with this intractable disease, so common in Brazil. Four hundred cases have been under observation and treatment. Electricity, in the form of the continuous and interrupted currents and with electrolysis, together with massage, and pressure by means of the rubber handgrip, have given satisfactory results. (The author's views as to the value of the electric current in the treatment of this disease were published as early as 1877.) A series of six photographs of a patient portraying elephantiasis of the legs, taken at intervals from 1879 to 1885, shows the marked improvement which took place from year to year, from which it appears that two years after the beginning of the treatment cure practically resulted. Judging from the photographs, the results are eminently satisfactory. The author insists upon the point that the remedies must be employed for a long time and perseveringly. Apart from the matter pertaining to treatment, the essay contains interesting statistics.

## PRURITUS CUTANEUS UNIVERSALIS.

WERTHEIMBER (*Münch. med. Wochenschrift*, No. 44, 1889) speaks favorably of the value of salicylate of sodium in two severe cases and one light case of this form of the disease, the dose being one ounce, three times daily, of a three per cent. solution.

## LUPUS VULGARIS; ITS TREATMENT WITH BALSAM OF PERU.

SAALFELD, of Berlin (*Deutsche med. Wochenschrift*, November 7, 1889), in view of the favorable results obtained by Landerer in the treatment of various tuberculous affections with balsam of Peru, was led to employ it in lupus vulgaris. The crusts are to be removed with soap and water and the

remedy applied twice daily with a brush. The results were, up to a certain point, satisfactory; the author believing that the balsam, more than any other known local remedy, as it were, prepares the disease for the more radical methods of treatment, such as scraping and the galvano- and thermocautery.

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## OBSTETRICS.

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UNDER THE CHARGE OF

EDWARD P. DAVIS, A.M., M.D.,

VISITING GYNECLOGICIAN TO THE PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL.

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### RETROVERSION OF THE UTERUS IN PREGNANCY.

MARTIN (*Deutsche med. Wochenschrift*, No. 39, 1889) has found in 24,000 women 121 cases of retroflexion of the uterus persisting during pregnancy. In 27 of these cases pregnancy occurred, although the deformity was congenital, and affections of the endometrium, tubes, and ovaries were not uncommon. A case is cited in which the patient suffered for three and a half years with congenital retroflexion and gonorrhœa, but after recovery she conceived and bore a healthy child.

It was usually true that sterility in these cases depended upon a diseased endometrium or stenosis of the tube, and not upon the congenital retroflexion.

In 94 cases the retroflexion persisted after repeated pregnancies; 9 of these patients wore pessaries at the time when conception occurred. A large portion of pregnancies in retroflexed uteri with beginning incarceration never come to the physician's notice, but undergo spontaneous reduction. When this does not occur the most significant symptom is dysuria.

Reposition of the retroflexed uterus should always be done if spontaneous restitution fails; if necessary, the uterus should be amputated, or removed *per vaginam* if pregnancy be not advanced.

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### THE ORIGIN OF PLACENTA PRÆVIA, WITH AN ILLUSTRATIVE CASE.

KALTENBACH (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, No. 40, 1889) reports a carcinoma of the uterus at four months' pregnancy, in which the cervix was closed by the cancer, the internal os closed, the placental site covering more than half the periphery of the ovum. Over the internal os was a cup-shaped space where the ovum was not joined to the uterine wall. This was covered by a lobe of placenta developed within the decidua reflexa in the inferior pole of the ovum. This case corroborates the observation of Hofmeier, that placenta prævia is placenta developing within the decidua reflexa of the inferior pole of the ovum. The most frequent cause for this development is endometritis of the body of the uterus.