induced. The rheumatic poison, which has a tendency to escape from the system, by means of the profuse cutaneous excretion, is baulked by the stagnation which its own action has induced; its extrication at the inflamed joints is prevented, and thus is imparted a tendency for it to seek some other mode of escape. Sometimes this is the only cause of the metastasis observed in rheumatism, but more commonly the counter-irritant effect of inflammation taking place in other parts of the body combines to induce the cessation of inflammation in the parts previously affected.—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, April 11, 1868.

18. *Specific Character of Varicella*.—Dr. L. THOMAS (*Arch. der Heilk.*, 1867, 4) adduces in support of his view of the specific character of chicken-pox the following reasons. 1. The form of the eruption. 2. The manner in which the development of the pock occurs. Its appearance, maturation and disappearance take place more quickly and with greater uniformity than does the pock in variola. 3. Varicella occurs more frequently as an epidemic than variola. 4. The disease is confined most commonly to the age of childhood. 5. The failure of vaccination to afford any protection against the occurrence of chicken-pox. 6. The course of the disease; absence generally of prodromata; the slight increase of temperature during the eruptive stage. The height of the disease lasts from two to three days, with fever of an intermittent type. Its decline is then very rapid, being completed often within twelve hours. The entire duration of the febrile stage is from three to four days. The eruption begins to appear often towards the end of the first day or at the commencement of the second, seldom later. The pocks either appear at once as full-formed vesicles, or these are quickly developed from a slight lenticular hyperæmic spot. By the second day after their appearance the contents of the vesicles become turbid, and then quickly drying form a yellowish or brownish crust. A few new vesicles are now often developed. The course of varicella is strictly typical; being pretty uniform in every case. 7. The chicken-pox cannot be propagated by inoculation with the contents of the vesicles. 8. The period of incubation in varicella does not appear to have so uniform a duration as in variola, in which exanthem it is of a determinate length.—*Vierteljahrsschr. f. d. Prakt. Heilk.*, No. xxv., 1868. D. F. C.

19. *The Dry Catarrh of Children*.—Under this name STEINER describes in the *Jahrbuch. f. Kinderheilkunde* (1868, 1-25), a condition of the air-passages occurring in children during the prevalence of an epidemic catarrh. There was hyperæmia with swelling of the respiratory mucous membrane. The bronchi presented no accumulation of mucus indicating increased secretion. The lymphatic glands along the trachea were enlarged, dark red, and had under gone at their centre a caseous metamorphosis. The disease was attended with extreme dyspnoea, and with frequently recurring paroxysms of coughing. The cough was in general dry and whistling, but without râles of any kind. There was no discharge of sputa. Even in cases where the disease lasted for weeks or even months the cough retained throughout its dry character. Percussion over the lungs gave a loud and more or less tympanitic sound. By auscultation a rough vesicular respiration was detected, with a whistling, rattling sound. It was only towards the close of fatal cases that the vesicular character of the respiration diminished. They were, in most cases, unattended with fever. When, as frequently took place, symptoms of congestive hyperæmia of the brain set in, the disease ordinarily proceeded with rapid steps to a fatal termination. Its subjects were for the most part the children of the poor who were badly sheltered and badly nourished. The immediate cause of the disease, as observed by Steiner, was the same which gave rise to the wide-extended catarrh which prevailed at the same time and place, and attended with great difficulty of respiration. In cases occurring in adults, it is supposed that an emphysematous condition is first produced, and to this is due the dry cough.

In the treatment of the disease, Dr. S. employs the vapour of hot water; and to excite the normal secretion of the respiratory mucous membrane, the use of the alkaline mineral waters. From emetics, he seldom saw much good result. To subdue the difficulty of respiration and severe asthmatic paroxysms, he