to two presumptive instances of this. First, in the campaign in German East Africa the onset of the rainy season coincided exactly with a very great reduction in the numbers of cases of dysentery amongst the white troops with whom I was serving; and of all cases amongst these I found a very large proportion to be amœbic.

Again, in Gallipoli, it was remarked that the onset of the rain in August seemed to put a stop to the dysentery that had been so prevalent amongst the troops there, and although it has since been questioned that much of the dysentery during the Gallipoli campaign was amœbic, it is at least admitted that that peninsula must be regarded as an endemic centre of amœbiasis. No one familiar with hot dusty countries—and especially with campaigning in these countries—can forget the welcome freedom from dust accompanying the onset of the rains. My inference is that the almost absolute freedom from dust in the rainy season suggests that dust has been the medium of infection where dysentery also ceases with the onset of the rains. It may be argued that the rains also reduce the numbers of flies, but a few hours' sunshine is generally sufficient to cause these to reappear and infest food materials as before.

Note.—On the question of the duration of infections of *T. intestinalis* and *T. mesnili*, one case I know to have lasted for over two years, including a period of four months in England. Cyst formation seems to be irregularly periodic in occurrence.

Clinical Notes :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

INTENSIVE IODINE TREATMENT.

BY TOM BIRD, M.A., M.R.C.S.

CONSULTING ANÆSTHETIST TO GUY'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. Louis Bourdreau published in 1914¹ his experience, of some 14 years' duration, of the intensive treatment of tuberculosis by large and continuous doses of the tincture of iodine of the French Codex. The article is remarkable for three things: his great success as to results in tuberculosis, the large doses that can be given by a gradual increase, and the proof of sincerity in that Dr. Bourdreau did not publish his results until some 14 years after he began the treatment. His colleagues only had knowledge of his work, and he showed rare restraint in delaying publication for so long. He suggests the "intensive treatment of iodine" might be useful in other diseases. The article came under my notice through a letter of Dr. William Ewart, of St. George's Hospital, who resorted to the treatment for his own arthritis with such success that "from being unable to go upstairs one at a time, he could manage three at a time." He took 10 gr. in the day of pure iodine, through the medium of the French tincture (or Indian tincture), neither of which contain any iodide of potassium.

In quite a number of arthritic cases, and in three or four cases of chronic gout, and in those cases called "rheumatic gout," I have had a quite remarkable success, especially as to pain and insomnia. In 1917 I met an old friend, Dr. J. H.

Ewart, of Eastbourne, and no relation of the above-mentioned Dr. Ewart, who told me he used the treatment, and "was continually having prescriptions returned by the chemists, who were surprised at the doses." Although he is himself susceptible to iodine, he told me that he could take 3i of the French tincture for a dose. He wrote:—

"I tried the treatment, tinct. iodine (French), and began with 10 min., and went on to 30 min. three times a day, and the results were really marvellous; my finger-joints decreased in size in a most wonderful manner. I then went wrong, and began taking 60 min. three times a day, and this ended by giving me a diarrhoea I shall not forget. But to refer to other people. I treated at the All Saints' Convalescent Hospital everybody who complained of chronic rheumatism with tinct. iod. (F.). I don't think the three weeks they were there that I got beyond 30 min. *ter die*; but the results were really splendid."

With regard to tuberculosis, I have only one case to report. He had been at a sanatorium, and was apparently cured; but in a comparatively short time began to fail, and at last came hæmorrhage. I had already advised him to try iodine as a prophylactic. When the hæmorrhage came he was alarmed and began to take iodine. Some two months after I met him by accident and was surprised at his healthy appearance; he was, he said, quite well and had increased 10 lb. in weight. One swallow does not make a summer, but a swallow is a happy omen when it comes.

Some people are susceptible to iodine, as is my friend Dr. Ewart, of Eastbourne; yet he arrived at 3i. doses. I generally order 1 gr. after meals three times a day the first week, 2 gr. the second week, 3 gr. the third week. For arthritis I seldom give more. Beyond slight catarrh of the nasal mucous membrane, of the possibility of which I warn patients, I hear of no inconvenience, certainly no iodism. If the treatment has been left off it is better to begin again with small doses, as diarrhoea may follow a large dose. When pain and swelling have been relieved my custom is gradually to discontinue the medicine. It is unfortunate that the article in the *Journal de Médecine* is out of print, and apparently unobtainable, as some of the details recorded are interesting and illuminating.

The notable absence of iodism following the use of the French tincture suggests that it might be used instead of iodide of potassium.

Conduit-street, W.

A CASE OF OSTEITIS FIBROSA.

BY NORMAN C. LAKE, M.D. LOND., F.R.C.S. ENG.,
SURGEON, QUEEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, HACKNEY-ROAD, E.;

AND

NORAH H. SCHUSTER, M.B. VICT.,
HOUSE SURGEON, QUEEN'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

THE chief point of interest in this case was that, although the X ray photograph so closely resembled that of Mr. E. G. Slesinger's case which appeared in THE LANCET of Nov. 15th, 1919, and very strongly suggested cyst formation, both the operation and subsequent microscopy showed the complete absence of cysts.

The patient, a girl aged 7 years, attended the Queen's Hospital for Children in March, 1916, with a history of a fall three years previously and subsequent limping. There was no shortening of the limb or tenderness, and a bony swelling was felt over the upper end of the femur. The X ray showed a coxa vara with questionable signs of old tuberculous disease or periostitis.

¹ Journal de Médecine de Bordeaux, January, 1914.