Dr. Elliot reports a successful laparotomy and Kraske operation for absence of rectum in an infant two days old. The author believes his case is the first where a laparotomy was combined with a Kraske operation for the correction of imperforate rectum.

In this volume of the *Transactions* Dr. McFadden Gaston presents an article on an "Improved Method of Exploring the Thorax." His method of making a trap-door opening in the chest-wall is an advance upon methods hitherto adopted.

Dr. Rudolph Mintas's article on "The Surgical Peculiarities of the Negro" is a hook in itself. It shows the result of many laborious hours, and any one who is interested in the comparative study of the negro race in regard to surgical peculiarities will find it to his advantage to read this interesting article.

Dr. John B. Roberts reports a "Clinical, Pathological, and Experimental Study of Fracture of the Lower End of the Radius, with Displacement of the Carpal Fragment toward the Flexor or Anterior Surface of the Wrist." This article contains a number of photographs, and a skiagraph which clearly shows the deformity which followed an injury to the right wrist.

Dr. De Forest Willard's Röntgen-ray skiagraphs of tubercular knees and knock-knees are very interesting. The skiagraphs of the tubercular knees demonstrate that the use of the Röntgen rays for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment is of the greatest practical value.

This volume ends with a lengthy and interesting report of Dr. S. H. Weeks, who was the delegate to the British Medical Association. This hook can be cordially commended to students of surgery, as it contains many new and sound surgical ideas advanced by our lending surgeons.

G. W. S.

PICTORIAL ATLAS OF SKIN DISEASES AND SYPHILITIC AFFECTIONS, in photo-lithochromes from models in the Museum of the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris. By BESNIER, FOURNIER, TENNESON, HALLOPEAU, DU CASTEL FEULARN, and JACQUET; edited by J. J. PRINGLE. Parts X. and XI. London (Rebman Publishing Company) and Philadelphia (W. B. Saunders), 1897.

NOTICE has been taken in the JOURNAL on several occasions of this valuable *Atlas*. The parts before us are entirely up to the high standard of the preceding parts, and comprise "Polymorphous Syphilodermata," by A. Fournier; "Paget's Disease of the Nipple," by J. Darier (an excellent article as well as a fine picture); "Tropic Ulcers of the Hand and Forearm," by L. Jacquet; "Syphilitic Chancre of the Face and Breast," by A. Fournier; "Hydroic Erythema of the Hands and Lips," by Du Castel; "Pigmentary Syphiloderm" (of the side of the neck, and darker than usual), by G. Baudouin; "Molluscum Contagiosum" (of the vulva and thighs), by G. Baudouin; "Vascular Nævus Verrucosus of the Leg" (multiple, and irregularly distributed), by E. Gaucher; and "Pediculosis Vestimentorum with Pigmentation," by L. Jacquet. The list of diseases enumerated shows the scope of the *Atlas*. Some are rare or very rare, while others are common; all are equally well reproduced. The text in some cases is brief; in others lengthy and valuable as a contribution to the subject, as in the article by Darier referred to.

L. A. D.

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

REYNOLD W. WILCOX, M.D., LL.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND THERAPEUTICS AT THE NEW YORK POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL
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Peronin.—DR. M. EBERSON states that this drug occurs as a dirty-white, bulky, fine powder, without odor, but of bitter taste, with difficulty soluble in cold, but readily in hot water. It is insoluble in acids, concentrated alcohol, and chloroform. Chemically it is benzyl-morphine chloride ($C_{17}H_{19}NO_2 \cdot HCl$). Sixteen instances of its use are reported: acute bronchial catarrh, five; chronic bronchial catarrh, three; pulmonary tuberculosis, five; and whooping-cough, three. In general, the results as a cough sedative were favorable. For adults the dose is from one-sixth to one-third of a grain four times daily, in syrup, as a powder, or in tablets or cachets. Its bitter taste should be concealed, and it should be prevented from giving rise to burning sensations in the throat. Its use did not affect the appetite, circulation, or general condition. It diminishes the amount of expectoration, but without hindering its expulsion. On the whole, it appears to be a valuable substitute for morphine. It quickly cures acute bronchitis. It improves the cough-irritation, expectoration, and sleep in chronic bronchitis and pulmonary tuberculosis. It does not injure in any way the digestion. It is not poisonous, even after long-continued use. The only exception to this was found in a two-year old child, who showed drowsiness. Most excellent results were obtained in one instance of hysterical cough, and in three of whooping-cough.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, 1897, Heft xi. S. 591.

[For all that this report is favorable, the essential fact at issue is not discussed: how much and in what way is this preferable to other salts of morphine?—R. W. W.]

Creosote Carbonate.—DRS. PAUL JACOB and HANS NORDT present the results of their use of this drug, 103 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis having been under observation. They state that earlier creosote preparations were objectionable from their disturbing the gastro-intestinal tract, diminishing

the appetite and being detrimental to the general condition, while the preparation in question is free from these disadvantages. The dosage began with five drops thrice daily, and gradually increased to twenty-five. The patients received a generous diet. Weighing at regular intervals was insisted upon. Twenty-eight of these histories are given in detail. Of these eleven showed good, sixteen fair, and one no result. For the remainder, some showed marked, and others moderate improvement, in spite of the fact that in some one-half, in others the whole of the treatment was carried out during the fall and winter months, so that climatic influences and out-door exercise as aids to treatment could not be employed. While under treatment colds were infrequently observed, and thus a common cause of failure to improve is measurably removed. In not a single instance was the appetite unfavorably influenced. In five a loss of appetite, brought about by previous treatment, disappeared. In general there was a gain in weight. The cough and expectoration steadily improved, and in most the physical signs were either the same or indicating less involvement of the lung. Whether we believe or not in the specific action of this remedy, it is apparent that it favorably influences the fever and night-sweats, and that it is superior to other preparations in that it does not interfere with but rather favors the nutrition of the patient.—*Charité-Annalen* (Berlin), 1897, S. 159.

[From a more extended experience reported three years ago, we reached substantially the same conclusions.—R. W. W.]

Treatment of the Coryza of Children.—DR. H. NÆGELI-ÅKERBLÖM for the past six years has employed the following method for children, even for nurslings. A 2 per cent. solution of cocaine in equal parts of distilled water and glycerin is made. One drop of this is instilled into each nostril three or four times daily with a medicine-dropper. The immediate result is the opening of the nasal passages, so that the child can readily breathe through the nose and rhinoscopy can be carried out. This method is not dangerous, and the effect can be readily estimated by an investigation of the eyes (pupillary dilatation).—*Therapeutische Wochenschrift*, 1897, No. 57, S. 1311.

Treatment of Epilepsy by the Method of Bechtereid.—DOTT. DE CESARE makes use of the following: Adonis vernalis, 15 grains; infused in water, 12 drachms; to this is added potassium bromide, 75 grains; codeine, $\frac{3}{4}$ grain; syrup, 4 drachms; and water, 2½ ounces. One-half of this is taken in the morning, the rest at bedtime. Good results have been obtained upon eight patients during six weeks, in that convulsions ceased in four and the remainder noticed only vertigo.—*Riforma Medica*, 1897, No. 188, p. 447.

The Treatment of Tetanus by Antitetanic Serum.—DR. ED. BOINET reports a single successful instance where ten injections were used. In this instance the germs had preserved their virulence for a long time, even in the dried earth which may cover merchandise coming from warm countries. The bacilli gained entrance through some scratches, the remains of which were then evident, and probably by the respiratory tract as well. Treatment was commenced eight days after the onset of the disease. This treatment is

likely to be more successful when used as a preventive, when the period of incubation is longer and when the progress of the disease is slower. Also the more slowly the tetanus toxin poisons the nervous elements the longer time will the serum have to act, especially if the prompt ablation of the site of infection prevents the absorption and elaboration of the poison of tetanus.—*Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, 1897, 10e liv., p. 433.

The Untoward Action of Lactophenin.—DR. ANMIN HUBER reports an instance of a fifty-year old woman who had suffered for many years from hemorrhagic nephritis and commencing cirrhosis. During the past year she had emaciated and had suffered from headaches. During the month just past she had taken seven grains of the drug without the slightest inconvenience. On one day she took four grains in the morning and early in the afternoon seven more. Later she noted a prickly-heat in the head, swelling of the face, and in the evening she experienced a chill, which was followed by fever and a severe headache. The next morning there were erythematous patches, the size of a silver dollar, upon the face, severe swelling of the upper lip, and upon its inner surface vesicles the size of a bean, and bloody ulcerations of the same size. The tongue was enlarged, so that its movements were difficult, and upon its right inferior surface an ulceration which was coated with fibrin. There was severe *fator ex ore*. The vagina burned and itched; on the right *labium minus* was found a small ulcer accompanied by cedematous swelling, and leucorrhœa. This attack produced no change in the urine, neither increasing the blood nor albumin; the quantity and specific and the ulcerations healed without scar. The itching gradually diminished. Gravity were not altered. After eight days convalescence was established. So severe symptoms from lactophenin are rare. Macular exanthemata and icterus have, however, been recorded. The practising physician should keep in mind that "*nil prodest quod non leadere possit idem*" (Ovid).—*Correspondenzblatt für Schweizer Aerzte*, 1897, No. 24, S. 737.

Paraldehyde for Hypodermatic Use.—DR. G. MAURANOE administers from seven to thirty grains of this drug as an hypnotic in certain neuroses (epilepsy, hysteria), in the insomnia of patients suffering from cardiac disease, and in angina pectoris. It is also an antagonist to strychnine and has given good results in tetanus and eclampsia. It formerly gave rise to abscesses (Dujardin and Beaumetz), and possibly the drug was impure. This obstacle has been removed, and pure crystalline paraldehyde can be obtained. If oil is used instead of water as a solvent there are no difficulties in its use. The formula employed is: Paraldehyde, 75 to 150 grains; essence of peppermint, 2 drops; sterilized olive oil, 5 drachms. Of this from one-fourth to one and one-fourth drachms can be given. The remedy is rapidly eliminated by the breath, giving it an unpleasant odor (similar to that of drunkards). The respiration is slowed, the temperature falls, the higher nerve-centres have their congestion removed, and sleep rapidly supervenes, resembling that produced by chloral.—*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, 1897, No. 22, p. 700.

[The objection to this treatment is not so much to the manner as to the drug. An hypnotic which can be administered hypodermatically is desirable, and we have it in pellotine.—R. W. W.]