The Topical Application of Mucin in Certain Affections of the Nose, Throat and Ear.—STUART-LOW, W.—*Lancet*, April 5, 1902.

The *bête noire* of nose, throat and ear practice is the difficulty of successfully accomplishing amelioration of aridity of the mucous linings of these organs, and the fact is that to such aridity all the other intractable, disagreeable, and distressful symptoms are due—namely, incrustation, fetor, ulceration, hemorrhage, and pain. The lessened mucous flow by causing desiccation causes also the loss of the essential and special nasal functions of smell and the filtration and warming of the inspired air. It is claimed for mucin that it does more than anything that has yet been tried to relieve the discomfort in mild cases and to mitigate the distress and suffering in the more severe. It is a natural remedy which restores the moisture and maintains it in virtue simply of its hygroscopic properties.

When applied locally to the interior of the nose and pharynx mucin has a soothing and emollient action; it moistens the surface and softens incrustations, readily facilitates their removal, and prevents their reformation; it thus also obviates fetor, which is one of the best points in its favor as a local remedy. Mucin also restores the nasal function of smell by its hygroscopic effect, and the filtration and warming functions are also resumed, because in a dry condition the mucous membrane is functionless. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have prepared a soloid composed of five grains of mucin, five grains of sodium bicarbonate, and one grain of menthol. This is prepared for use by dissolving it in one ounce of sterilized warm water, or more thoroughly to get more of the mucin into solution the author is in the habit of dissolving the soloid in equal parts of sterilized warm water and sterilized warm lime-water. This solution may be used to spray, to douche, or to syringe the nose and throat twice daily. The spray should be a coarse one, as otherwise it is liable to get clogged with particles of undissolved mucin. A very good plan to obviate this is to spray warm water at least once a day through the instrument and thus wash it out. If much incrustation has to be got rid of it is well to rub it off with cotton-wool saturated in the warm mucin solution on a mounted prop. In severe and very old-standing cases of atrophic trouble he supplements the local treatment by giving the patient tabloid mucin co, containing five grains each of mucin and sodium bicarbonate internally before and after meals, and thus relieve the concomitant gastric irritation and constipation.

The solution of mucin has also been tried in cases of dry catarrh of the middle ear. The author finds that even long-standing cases of atrophic nasal and pharyngeal trouble do very well, and that the crusts soon cease to accumulate, after regular douching twice daily with a solution of soloid mucin co., and that no other irrigations are ordinarily necessary; that there are certainly instances when pus is present in the discharge in which it is advantageous to use it just before the mucin douche a lotion of sodium sulphate or a combination of sodium sulphate and bicarbonate for cleansing purposes. The author has patients who, after years of suffering from typical atrophic rhinitis with all its horrors of fetor and discomfort, have, after continuous and persistent application of the mucin irrigation, now been able to dispense with treatment to a greater extent than two or three times weekly.

ST. CLAIR THOMPSON.

The Methods of Using Argyrol—A. C. BARNES, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.—*The Virginia Medical Semi-Monthly*. October, 1902.

This paper deals with the use of Argyrol in many surgical conditions, including such affections of the throat, nose and ear, as catarrhal manifestations of the nasal, pharyngeal and laryngeal mucous membranes, also hay fever, purulent otitis media and empyema of the antrum of Highmore. The strength was 10 to 50 per cent., according to the inherent sensitiveness of the location to which it was applied. The author compares it with silver nitrate, (an old and valuable remedy) to the detriment of the latter because its chemical nature endows it with certain drawbacks, viz.: it is irritating, caustic, is chemically changed by the secretions and does not penetrate much beyond the surface. Argyrol is not chemically changed by the secretions, possesses intense penetrative power, whereby the effects of silver are exerted in the sub-mucous structures (where they are most needed and may be used in any structure of the body in almost any strength without destroying tissue or producing irritation. Argyrol has one very marked property—i. e., its effects in allaying the signs and symptoms of inflammation.

F. C. E.

Atrophic Rhinitis—JOHN J. KYLE—*Indiana Medical Journal*. October, 1902.

The author reviews the subject from an etiologic standpoint, and from the numerous and varying opinions expressed on the subject he selects that of Bayer and Woakes, namely, the neuropathic theory, as expressive of his opinion.

STEIN.