melanoblasts, with which they are in many places in demonstrable contact. In many nævi, giant cells are present without the growth showing other evidences of excessive proliferation or inflammation. These giant cells are distinguished from the other nævus cells not only by their size, but chiefly through the deep staining of their nuclei and the presence of a basophile granular substance in their protoplasm. The latter peculiarity is not found in all, but in many of the giant cells. Processes from the melanoblasts penetrate between the epidermis cells, partly coalescing with them. These cells lie partly between the cells of the epidermis, partly in the boundary between the epidermis and the corium, partly between the nævus cells, and partly arranged around the vessel in the deep layers of the cutis. With regard to pigmentation, the nævus cells behave just as the epithelial cells. All the pigment demonstrable in the nævus is found in cells (epithelial, nævus, giant, and melanoblasts). The histological picture presented by pigmented, soft nævi speaks categorically for the correctness of Ehrmann's pigment theory.

Botryomycosis in Man.—BODIN (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*, 1902, No. 4) reports two cases of this curious affection which he has studied histologically and bacteriologically. The first case was observed in a woman, twenty-seven years old. The disease began as a small nodule upon the posterior surface of the right thumb at its base. For a month the little tumor remained stationary, then it began to grow rapidly and ulcerate. At its acme the growth was the size of a hazelnut, rounded and covered with small fissures. At its base there was a deep circular furrow, at the bottom of which was a smooth, short, rounded pedicle by which the tumor was attached to the skin. The tumor was excised with the scissors and a complete cure followed in a few days. The second case also occurred in a woman, and was precisely like the first, except that the tumor was situated upon the palmar surface of the first phalanx of the middle finger of the right hand. Histological examination of the tumors showed that they were composed of young connective tissue extremely rich in vessels running in all directions, having very slender walls, often consisting only of the endothelial layer. In the external parts of the tumor there were marked evidences of inflammation. Search for the mulberry-like masses supposed to be due to the parasite named botryomyces—the so-called castration fungus of the horse—was completely negative; nothing but an ordinary coccus taking the Gram stain was found. As the result of his study of these cases the author concludes that the micro-organism described under the name botryococcus, and which is claimed by Poncet, Dor, and Spick to be the cause of a peculiar neoplasm in man, is not a specific organism, but is identical with the yellow staphylococcus; and the botryomycocic neoplasms are only fleshy granulation tissue produced under the influence of the staphylococcus aureus.

Atoxyl, a New Arsenic Preparation, and its Employment in Diseases of the Skin.—SCHILD (*Dermatologische Zeitschrift*, April, 1902) reports his experience with atoxyl (meta-arsenacidanilid) in the treatment of various diseases of the skin in which arsenic has been found more or less useful.