observation, found the stratum corneum and stratum granulosum normal. In the deeper portions of the stratum spinosum, especially in the interpapillary prolongations, degenerative cellular changes were noticed. The basal layer was the particular seat of the alterations, and was attacked in its entirety. The changes involved the entire cell, altering its staining properties in varying degree. These cellular changes are attributed by Elliot to coagulation necrosis. He believes the chief feature in the morbid process to be an acquired or inherited abnormal irritability of the vascular apparatus of the skin, and, as the consequence of constant response to slight irritation, the basal portion of the rete is continually bathed in serous transudation, bringing about degenerative changes.

Röntgen Rays in the Treatment of Skin Diseases, and for the Removal of Hair.—WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY (*Journ. of Cut. and Gen. Urin. Dis.*, July, 1900) states that the effect of the rays upon the skin and subcutaneous tissues are all inflammatory in character, ranging from slight erythema to violent inflammation, ending in necrosis. The two actions of the Röntgen rays on tissues which offer the most promising prospects of utilization for therapeutic purposes are: (1) Its power of causing the falling out of the hair, and (2) its power of causing inflammatory reaction and influencing the nutrition of connective tissue. The practical problem is the application of the rays in such a manner that undesirable results be avoided. One should not use a current of more than one and a half ampères and twelve volts' strength, this current, of course, being much weaker than that employed for skiagraphy. An inductor of more than 30 cm. spark-length should not be used, nor should exposures be too long or too frequent. At the beginning the sittings should not be longer than five minutes, and the distance of the tube not more than 15 cm. Freund (who has done considerable experimenting upon the skin) recommends for the attainment of the best results the use of a mechanical interrupter run at the rate of 800 to 1000 interruptions per minute. Suitable lead masks, for protecting surfaces which are contiguous to the areas to be treated, should be used. The evidences that the exposures have been carried far enough are: The appearance of erythema or pigmentation; the blanching of the hair, and the loosening of the hair. The application of the Röntgen rays has been chiefly in four classes of affections: In hypertrichosis, for the removal of hair; in diseases of the hair and of the hair follicles; in inflammatory diseases, like chronic eczema, and in certain specific diseases, like lupus. The author believes that the agent is a valuable one for the removal of hair, especially in cases where the growth is diffuse and profuse. In lupus the rays seem to have a selective action, and, employed properly, constitute a remedy of value.

An Antiseptic Soap.—HERBERT SKINNER (*Brit. Journ. of Derm.*, May, 1900) gives the following formula for an ethereal solution of soap which can be made extempore. It can be rendered antiseptic, not with mercuric chloride, but with the biniodide freshly prepared—that is, mercuric chloride dissolved in a strong solution of potassium iodide. *R.* Acidi oleici, alcohol, of each, $\mathfrak{zss}$; liquor ammonii fort., q. s.; ether methylat., ad. $\mathfrak{f}\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{j}$. The first two are mixed and the ammonia added in order to neutralize the acid, then add the ether. It is far superior to any ordinary soap.