— At a recent meeting of the Pathological Society of Brussels, M. Wehenkel showed a new and improved test for the so-called amyloid degeneration. It is aniline violet. On treating the suspected tissue with this color the points of amyloid matter rapidly assume the color of mahogany red.

— At the annual meeting of the medical staff of the St. John's Hospital, Lowell, Dr. John O. Green was chosen chairman, and Dr. Nathan Allen secretary. In his report for last year Dr. Allen gives an encouraging account of the usefulness of this hospital, and in considering the various forms of disease treated dwells upon the fact that a large number found their origin in intemperance.

— In a paper read before the Society of Arts, Sir Joseph Fayrer called attention to the necessity of an organized establishment in India for the purpose of more effectually preventing the great destruction of life from wild animals. The *Times and Gazette* in quoting from this paper gives the following astounding figures: In the year 1875 no less than 20,805 persons and 46,805 head of cattle perished from this cause. Of these 17,070 persons died from the bites of snakes, 1016 persons were killed by wolves, and 828 persons by tigers. Through the exertions of the government the death rate from disease has been reduced to less than one third of its former figure (69 to 18). In the matter of exterminating wild beasts, however, they have to meet with the difficulty in obtaining native coöperation, arising from superstitious motives.

BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.

IN THE SERVICE OF DR. HALL CURTIS.

[REPORTED BY S. E. FITZ.]

Case of Yellow Atrophy of the Liver. — Mrs. E. T., widow, tailoress, sixty-five years, was born and lived in Boston, and was admitted to the hospital March 11, 1878. The history obtained was deficient because of her somewhat stupid, almost typhoid condition. She had always been a strong woman, of temperate habits and general good health; was at Taunton Asylum for Insane for some time previous to last December; and had been as well as usual during the winter and till about two weeks before, when exposure to bad weather was followed by general pains, especially severe in shoulders and neck, and also by considerable indisposition. She kept up, however, until vertigo, weakness, and finally chills compelled her to take to her bed four days before admission. She came in complaining of pain, not very severe, in the abdomen, most marked at the epigastrium; of pain in the back, from the lumbar region downward; of some pain before micturition; of constipation, thirst, anorexia, and nausea. The whole surface of the skin was icteric, dry, but not hot. The tongue was coated white, and inclined to be dry. Pulse 76; temperature 103.5° F. Liquid diet and a cathartic were given.

March 12th. Little sleep last night, because of abdominal pain and nausea. Vomited nearly everything taken, even milk and lime-water. One dejection to-day, not peculiar. Nothing abnormal detected in chest except feeble heart

sounds and tenderness at right base, which extended to right hypochondrium and epigastrium. A. M., pulse 80; temperature 99°. P. M., pulse 64; temperature 97.5°.

March 13th. Pupils much contracted, but sensitive. Increased icterus and nausea; vomitus, which before was curdy and light colored, now became a dark-brown fluid. Still considerable tenderness in hepatic region, with an indistinct feeling of resistance. Less pain. Made no complaint of anything. P. M., pulse 68; temperature 96.4°. Ordered pil. hydrarg., five grains, to be followed by a saline cathartic.

March 14th. The patient complained of pain during first part of night, but toward morning became quiet, and appeared to sleep. At morning visit decubitus was, as often before, on right side, skin more deeply yellow, face sunken, eyes rolled upward. She noticed nothing, appeared dull, sleepy, and, when aroused, mind wandered. The little nourishment taken was soon vomited with a greenish-brown, thick fluid. In the evening became unconscious, could not be aroused, and soon began to have clonic convulsions over whole body, with groaning expiration. There were seven or eight paroxysms up to midnight, when coma became complete, and so continued till death, four hours later.

The autopsy was made by Dr. W. P. Bolles, thirty hours after death. Body not emaciated, a brownish fluid oozing from nostrils. There was yellow discoloration of the entire body, showing itself in the skin, conjunctivæ, and fat of section. *Brain* normal. *Lungs* did not collapse much on opening the thorax. No adhesions. No serum in pleural cavities. Section of lungs gave numerous dark ecchymoses and considerable oedematous fluid. *Heart* normal, though there was much pericardial fat. *Stomach* partly filled with a somewhat viscid fluid, dark brown with a tinge of green, and consisting of mucus, blood, and probably bile. There was a slight constriction near the pyloric extremity (not the result of disease), and on the ridge thus formed, near the greater curvature, was an ulcer, one eighth to one sixth inch in diameter, extending through the mucous membrane only. *Intestines* normal. *Liver* was reduced in size, weighed one pound and fourteen ounces, was thin, flabby, easily broken through with the finger, readily folded on itself, and shriveled-looking on surface, which was slightly uneven. Its color was dull yellow mottled with darker spots. Its section was brownish-yellow in color, soft, flabby, the usual lobular structure being much obscured. The section was flecked also with dark ecchymotic spots, corresponding to those appearing on the external surface.

The *gall-bladder* was empty. A calculus one third inch long was lying loose in the hepatic duct. The *spleen* was normal, though rather soft. The *kidneys* were little altered in size. They were of a dark-reddish color, with evident yellowish tone pervading. No change of structure was visible to the naked eye.

Dr. R. H. Fitz kindly examined parts of the liver and kidneys. He says, "There can be no doubt of the nature of the liver, which under the microscope showed granular detritus, fat drops, leucine and tyrosine crystals, and no normal cells. The kidney was a superb specimen of acute parenchymatous nephritis, with universal fatty degeneration, such as might occur from arsenic or phosphorus."