acts by excitation of the sphincter. The induced current is the more commonly employed, and is applied by introducing into the urethral canal a slender bougie containing a metallic conductor terminating in an olive tip which is brought in contact with the sphincter. A feeble current is used and kept up for several minutes, and the operation is repeated daily. Decided improvement is obtained after several days.

The author reports encouraging success with this treatment, especially in seven cases which had resisted all the usual medicaments. Among these patients a little girl was cured quite rapidly. This case is emphasized, because the efficacy of local treatment in the female has been denied. Six of the patients had stricture of the sphincter, the seventh had contracture of the sphincter. All were cured rapidly.

TUMOR OF THE ORBIT IN A NEWBORN CHILD.

COURAUT (*Centralblatt f. Gynäkologie*, 1893, No. 32, p. 141) reports a rare instance of dermoid tumor of the orbit causing exophthalmos at birth. The infant was the sixth child of a woman whose antecedents could not be ascertained. Immediately after birth the left eye was observed to be markedly displaced forward by a mass which seemed to fill the entire orbit. The circumference of the tumor measured anteriorly 14.5 centimetres; its height was 3 and length 4 centimetres; the lids were separated 2.75 centimetres. The next day the tumor was enucleated with the eye; it contained connective, muscular, osseous, and cartilaginous tissue, mucous and sebaceous glands, hairs, etc. The child made a good recovery.

AN ASCARIS IN AN INFANT OF THREE WEEKS.

MILLER (*Jahrbuch f. Kinderheilkunde*, 1893, Band xxxvi., p. 39) records an interesting case of a newborn infant in which, after the fall of the cord, umbilical suppuration occurred, leading to perforation of the intestine. From the fistula thus formed a lumbricoid worm was discharged. The child later succumbed to pneumonia. The chief interest in the case lies in determining the method of entrance of the egg of the parasite. As the child was nourished at the breast from the time of its admission to the hospital on the third day after birth, it is most probable that infection occurred during the first three days of life, possibly by means of water used to dilute cow's milk for its feeding.

Another striking fact is the rapid development of the worm, which, at the time of its exit through the umbilical fistula, measured 18 centimetres in length. According to Leuckart the ascaris attains this size only after three or four months. The part played by the parasite in the production of the intestinal fistula is also a question of interest. Authorities are divided upon the point whether ascarides are able to perforate the intestinal walls. Monodière, Leroux, Sibold, and Leuckart affirm this to be possible, while Rokitsky, Küchenmeister, Lebert, Bremser, and Rudolphi are as positive on the opposite side.

In the case reported, the author does not admit the possibility of such perforation, believing that the parasite came from the bowel by the fistula.

already formed: after the fall of the cord there occurred at first an abscess, then gangrene of the umbilicus, which by extension to the intestine, already attached by inflammatory adhesions, produced the perforation and subsequent fistula.

**CACHEXIE PACHYDERMIQUE (MYXŒDEMA) WITHOUT IDIOCY
IN A CHILD.**

MARFAN and GUINON (*Revue mensuelle des Maladies de l'Enfance*, November, 1893, p. 481) record the history and very complete autopsy of a case of myxœdema in a boy thirteen years of age, traceable back to the seventh year, after an attack of measles and submaxillary abscess. The case is interesting for the absence of idiocy. All of the cases cited in the collection of Bourneville were more or less idiotic; and in the more recently reported experiments of Rehn and Hoffmann (Twelfth Congress of Internal Medicine, Wiesbaden, 1893), with reference to the employment of thyroid extract, the existence of idiocy in the childish patients does not seem to be noted. The intellectual peculiarities of the patient of the authors consisted only in slowness of ideation and feebleness of memory—characteristics quite identical with those observed in the spontaneous myxœdema of adults; whence it seems proven that this latter variety of the disease may occur as well in children as in adults.

The arrest of physical development is appreciable in the following conditions: at thirteen years the height was one metre (about that of a boy of seven years); the genital organs were very little developed, and the milk-teeth were still present, with four of the large molars.

Among the hereditary antecedents, alcoholism in the father and consanguinity in the parents (first cousins) were noted. In addition to the well-known characteristics of the disease, the child was affected with marked dyspnoea and cyanosis of lips and ears, which increased in intensity till death, a week after admission to the hospital.

At the autopsy the thyroid was found to be almost completely atrophied. Among other lesions most carefully described, that of the larynx deserves mention. There was a pachydermic infiltration of the mucous membrane of the larynx, most marked at the aryteno-epiglottic folds. These formed two thick cords, which notably contracted the superior opening of the larynx. Microscopic examination showed that this swelling was due, like that of the integument, to an accumulation of fatty tissue in the submucous layer. This lesion explains the marked dyspnoea noted in this case in the last few days of life. Subjects of pachydermic cachexia, as a rule, show a slight dyspnoea and cyanosis, but in the present case the respiratory disturbance played a predominant rôle, the dyspnoea without modification of the voice resembling that observed in œdema of the glottis. The effects of this stenosis of the larynx were more rapid and fatal from the coexistence of a certain degree of vacuolar degeneration of the fibres of the heart-muscle.

THE OPIUM HABIT IN CHILDREN.

UNDER this title LOUIS FISCHER (*Medical Record*, February 17, 1894, p. 197) reports four cases in detail, out of a total of twenty-two observed, and