author reasons that if total extirpation is not always followed by myxœdema the thyroid cannot be the cause of myxœdema, or the gland must share its function with some other organ. He believes that disease of the circulatory system is the cause of this condition, and mentions especially the alterations of the capillaries, the arteritis, with atheromatous or amyloid degeneration and perivascular hemorrhages, so often noted.

[The author's recommendation that in future autopsies the condition of the vessels be more carefully examined, is valuable; but his criticism, while ingenious, leaves out of sight one of the most important grounds for looking on the thyroid alteration as the most important, viz., the results of treatment. His conception contains a hiatus that makes it useless as a working hypothesis.—G. D.]

Suprarenal Gland Extract as a Hæmostatic.—LERMITTE (*The British Medical Journal*, February 25, 1899, p. 467) says that the vaso-constrictor and hæmostatic action of the extract of the suprarenal glands has repeatedly been demonstrated in ocular and nasal surgery and in the treatment of skin diseases. A case of persistent epistaxis occurring in his own practice would seem to demonstrate another valuable practical use to which the drug may be applied. The patient was a boy, aged six years, who had suffered from severe epistaxis which had developed during the convalescence from a severe attack of diphtheria in 1894. Since then, and up to September, 1898, when he came under Lermotte's care, he had had on an average from three to four severe hemorrhages weekly. Various forms of constitutional, but no local treatment had been used without beneficial effect. Examination of the nasal mucous membrane showed a dilated and angiomatous condition of the blood-vessels. On September 17, 1898, Lermotte commenced treating the nose locally by inserting into each nostril a pledget of cotton-wool soaked in a 5 per cent. solution of cocaine, leaving them *in situ* for five minutes. On withdrawing these, similar pledgets, soaked in a saturated solution of boric acid containing five grains of dried extract of suprarenal gland to the ounce were inserted and left in for the same time. These applications were made on alternate days until October 7th (three weeks), then on every third day till October 31st (three weeks), and afterward on every fourth day up to November 22d, making in all twenty-four applications.

The immediate effect on the nasal mucous membrane was to produce a condition of ischæmia, and the epistaxis was immediately stopped. Up to the time of writing there had been no return of the epistaxis since the first application was made.

Palpatory Percussion, Etc.—E. BÆLZ (*Berliner klin. Wochenschrift*, 1898, No. 48) publishes some practical observations in physical diagnosis. He draws the conclusion from its variety of forms and material that the plessimeter is of more than doubtful value, and in practice is well replaced by the finger. Similar objections have also made him give up the percussion hammer. He calls especial attention to the subject of palpatory percussion. This has not been used as much as it deserves, for two reasons: In the first place, because it has been used chiefly on an organ to which it is least applicable—i. e., the heart; and, secondly, because its technique has not been understood.