Hernaman-Johnson. X-RAY TREATMENT OF GRAVES' DISEASE. [Arch. Radiology and Electrotherapy, June, 1921.]

The author discusses the position of X-rays and electricity in the treatment of Graves' disease. The benefit derived from X-ray treatment is usually very pronounced, pulse rate and sweating diminishing, and definite improvement taking place. Usually the applications are over the thyroid, though some observers apply the rays over the thymus and over the sympathetic in the neck, the good effects appearing to be constitutional as well as local. It is best to commence with small frequent doses, combined with rest in bed where practicable, and the treatment should be given a trial even in apparently hopeless cases. While an acute case may respond rapidly to treatment, chronic cases may require in addition dental treatment, gastric extracts to aid digestion, salicylate of bismuth to control fermentative diarrhea, galvanism for the exophthalmos, and psychotherapy to regulate sleep and menstruation. X-ray treatment is used for its local regulating action and for its constitutional effect, and it should be commenced as soon as the disease is diagnosed. It should be regarded not as a rival but as an adjuvant to surgery, and, except in so far as its early employment tends to reduce the number of cases coming up for surgical consideration, its use need not affect the question as to when an operation becomes advisable. After operation the application of electricity to the remainder of the gland will diminish the risk of recurrence.

Passman, F. R., and Mestre, R. EXOPHTHALMIC GOITER IN PREGNANT WOMAN. [Semana Médica, April, 1921, Vol. XXVIII, No. 15.]

In this clinical report pregnancy and the exophthalmic goiter developed side by side. The condition became grave at the sixth month, the dyspnea extreme, the pulse 180, increased agitation in spite of all treatment. Abortion was followed by symptomatic recovery.

Woelz, E. DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOITER IN DIFFERENT ENDEMIC FOCI. [Schweiz. mediz. Wochen., July, 1921, Vol. LI, No. 27.]

Woelz compares 600 operative cases at Basel with 400 at Berne, omitting the malignant cases. Cretinism is rare in Basel; men there are affected with goiter much less frequently than women, and the goiters are more of the diffuse type, and larger.

Grunenberg. VEGETATIVE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN EXOPHTHALMIC GOITER. [Deutsche med. Woch., June, 1921, Vol. XLVII, No. 23. J. A. M. A.]

Grunenberg reports that in twelve exophthalmic goiter patients and ten cases of hyperthyreosis the excitability of the vegetative autonomic nervous system was tested before and after operation. Before the operation, the patients showed, for the most part, a sympatheticotonic, but a minority presented a normal type of the epinephrin blood pressure curve after injection of 1 mg. of epinephrin. In the group with the normal parabolic curve, pronounced lymphatism was always present. After the