Chronic Tympanic Vertigo. By Chas. H. Burnett, M.D. (Phil. Polyclinic, May 2, 1896).

Chronic tympanic vertigo is one of the late symptoms of chronic catarrhal otitis media. It is paroxysmal in its occurrence and is always observed in company with tinnitus and deafness, which usually precede it by several years. Sometimes both ears are affected simultaneously. The vertigo is followed soon or later by nausea, vomiting, reeling and falling. This affection is sometimes erroneously termed Menière's disease, neurasthenia, biliousness, cerebellar disease, and epilepsy.

MEIROWITZ.

THERAPUTICAL.

The Employment of Hypnotics in General Medicine. Dr. Richard Drews (*Wiener Medizinische Presse*, Nos. 13 and 14, 1896).

Trional is an ideal hypnotic—prompt and efficient. In doses of 1.0–2.0 gm. in adults, in children 0.2 gm. to 1.0 gm. it produces in one-quarter to one-half hour sleep which differs in no way from the normal, and it does not disturb the intellectual, respiratory or circulatory organs. Besides, it has no cumulative action and causes no habituation. It produces no gastro-intestinal disturbances and is practically innocuous. That there is little risk of poisoning from trional is shown in the cases reported. Where, after enormous doses, 8–10 grammes, but temporary symptoms were produced followed by perfect recovery. Like the bromides it can be taken a long time without injury, but unlike them it causes no abstinence symptoms. It is analgesic and in sufficient dose may produce sleep even in painful conditions. It is more reliable and prompt than sulfonal and less toxic. Out of the many thousands of cases in which trional has been employed, one case of hematoporphyria only has been observed, and here in connection with constipation and anorexia. All observers concur that it acts more rapidly than sulfonal, that its hypnotic effect extends over six to eight hours, and that it much more rarely gives rise to unpleasant after effects. These peculiarities in the action of trional can be explained on the ground of the behavior of this substance in the metabolism, in its prompt solution and decomposition. That it exerts no injurious action upon the albuminous metamorphosis is demonstrated by Schaumann. This gives trional great advantage over chloral, aside from the injurious action of the latter upon the heart and vascular system. In order to utilize the favorable effects of trional in the proper way, especial consideration should be shown to the dose and manner of administration.

To prevent the development of hematoporphyria and to guard against all other after-effects of trional, the dose should