

such poisonous vapors as carbon disulphide or benzole, or even in ordinary asphyxia. Where somnolence has been induced and asphyxia not pushed too far, the rabbit, when removed from the bell-jar and placed in ordinary atmospheric air, begins to move about in a few seconds in as lively a manner as if it had not been interfered with, there being neither weakness nor paralysis of its limbs. In a word, a few inhalations of atmospheric air are sufficient to restore to the animal all its faculties. Should the inhalation have been pushed further, and the animal have been very deeply asphyxiated, death may ensue, the cyanosis hitherto observed being rapidly replaced by extreme pallor. In the minor and easily recoverable stages of asphyxia the vascular tension is still maintained, and there is no difficulty in obtaining a drop of blood for examination; but when the deeper stages are reached, so extremely contracted are all the vessels that it is almost impossible to obtain even a trace of blood. When this stage has been reached recovery is difficult. It is interesting at this point to mention that when the blood of a rabbit at different stages of intoxication from acetylene is examined, and especially in the deepest asphyxia, this fluid on spectroscopic examination always exhibited two well-marked bands of oxyhemoglobin; also that, unlike the blood in coal-gas poisoning, although resembling it in the cherry-red color which it presented, it was readily reduced on the application of ammonium sulphide and gentle heat. To that extent, therefore, if the asphyxia caused by acetylene is not too profound—and under ordinary domestic circumstances it would not be a pure acetylene atmosphere that would be inhaled by an individual, but one mixed with a large proportion of ordinary air—the danger to life seems to be less than it would be in coal-gas poisoning, and the prospect of recovery by removal to atmospheric air greater. Death may supervene, however, if the inhalation has been lengthened and atmospheric air excluded. A rabbit which was profoundly asphyxiated by acetylene, whose lips were extremely pale, its arteries comparatively empty, pupils widely dilated, breathing short and irregular, and muscles completely parietic, died after removal from the bell-jar, death being preceded as in anemia of the brain, by opisthotonos and convulsion, first in one of the forelimbs, then of the hind, and subsequently the tremors became general. The rabbit died long after its removal from the acetylene atmosphere, after it had been breathing for twenty minutes ordinary air superficially and irregularly. The condition of the heart found at the necropsy is scarcely that observed in asphyxia; some other factor, therefore, contributed to the death of the animal.—*British Medical Journal*, 1898, No. 1947, p. 1069.

An Eruption Due to Exalgin.—M. G. LENOIR remarks the great rarity of cutaneous manifestations after ingestion of this drug. This patient, who could not take antipyrin because of the erythema which it caused, received about four grains of exalgin for the relief of headache. An hour after a general erythema appeared. The following day the body was covered with round, brilliantly red, papular areas of considerable size. Upon the back of the hands and in the digital interspaces the elevations seemed to be ecchymotic. Later the epidermis was separated and hullæ containing a colorless liquid appeared. Pressure upon the papular areas caused severe pain, although there was no marked itching. After the hullæ disappeared severe pain was

felt at their site. There was also marked burning pain throughout the entire length of the alimentary canal, and erythematous patches were seen upon the gums. All these manifestations disappeared within three or four days.—*Bulletin Générale de Thérapeutique*, 1898, 13c liv. p. 492.

Bacteriuria.—DR. EDMUND BONN reports an instance of chronic deep urethritis and follicular prostatitis. He administered internally sodium salicylate, benzoic acid, and snolol, with large quantities of water (three pints to two quarts), and finally irrigated the bladder with potassium permanganate (1 to 1000) and corrosive sublimate (1 to 10,000). These were unavailing. The best results were obtained by the use of diuretic infusions and fifteen to thirty grains of urotropin daily, although even this did not entirely clear the urine.—*Prager medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1898, No. 18, S. 208.

The Applications of the Gastric Juice of the Dog.—M. FRÉMONT has obtained benefit from this substance in cholera nostras, chronic enteritis, and old dyspepsias. Several excessively emaciated patients gained weight rapidly. This remedy is contraindicated in the presence of an excessive amount of hydrochloric acid and in cancer. All of the patients treated had been for some time upon a regulated diet without benefit. Suggestion would not explain the beneficial results because the majority of patients did not know what they were taking. The juice was administered during the meal either clear or in beer. The doses varied according to the acidity of the stomach-contents of the patients. The average dose was two ounces.—*Le Progrès Médical*, 1898, No. 18, p. 281.

MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Cancer of the Oesophagus.—HUBER has reported a case with some unusual features. The patient, a restaurateur, aged fifty-five years, began to complain of weakness and of piercing pain on swallowing. For years he had had attacks of an anginous character, frequently associated with hystero-epileptic paroxysms provoked by acute alcoholism. The patient was weak and emaciated, the pupils were contracted, and reacted to accommodation, but not to light. The reflexes were normal. Solid food could not be swallowed. On attempting to swallow milk, a conching paroxysm was excited and most of the milk vomited. Examination of the pharynx showed a dilatation of the lower end, containing food-remains and mucus. The right vocal cord was