

skins of those who wash frequently have the best absorptive powers, and absorption is at its maximum after a hot soap and water bath. In summer absorption is more active than in winter and energetic friction as well as the addition of gaultheria or menthol added to the ointment aids absorption.—*Wiener Klinisch-therapeutische Wochenschrift*, 1904, No. 15, p. 419.

Physical Methods in Treatment of Chronic Articular Rheumatism.—DR. N. DOHAN considers that too little attention is paid to physical methods in the management of this affection. He recommends that the diseased joint be subjected to an induced current for eight to ten minutes. This relieves the pain to a considerable extent. Then the joint is bathed in water at 58° to 60°, or swathed in bandages wet with cold water. After the pain has been benefited by these procedures an electric light bath, lasting from eight to ten minutes is prescribed, followed by a cold douche to the joint. After this the joint should not be dried immediately. During the treatment a more or less rigid milk diet is advised.—*Blätter für klinische Hydrotherapie*, 1904, No. 9, p. 197.

Antistreptococcus Serum in Puerperal Sepsis.—DRS. H. PILCER and M. EBERSON conclude a study of the effect of this agent upon 28 cases with the following statements: 1. That Marmorek's antistreptococcus serum is not a specific against all forms of puerperal sepsis, but it is a powerful adjunct to other treatment of this infection. 2. The serum acts by stimulating the formation of leukocytes in the diseased organism, and for this reason it is indispensable in puerperal fever. 3. The serum produces a feeling of well-being in the patient which is a point in favor of its administration in connection with other therapeutic agents. 4. To produce the best effects the serum must be injected in sufficiently large quantity, the average dose being from 1½ to 3 ounces.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, 1904, No. 10, p. 509.

Age Limits in Cold Water Therapy.—DR. WINTERNITZ protests against the prejudice which exists against the employment of cold water in anæmic and debilitated persons on the ground that it extracts body heat. On the contrary, according to him, the cold water augments the production of heat. In infants cyanotic and cold from gastro-enteritis he has obtained remarkable results by means of friction with cloths wrung out in cold water. Such applications provoke a considerable excitation of the organic functions and are indicated in the infant in all torpid conditions and circulatory disturbances. He considers extreme youth no contraindication to the application of cold water. Likewise in old age he recommends rapid local use of cold water. Arteriosclerosis is no contraindication. At first sight this would not seem true for cold increases the blood pressure, already below normal in atheromatous patients. The author recognizes two varieties of arteriosclerosis, one with increased blood pressure, the other, and these are the more gravely affected, with an arterial pressure below the normal. But quick applications of cold lower the pressure in the first group and elevate it in the second; in the former class the hydrotherapy stimulates inhibition, in the second it excites the organism.—*Blätter für klinische Hydrotherapie*, 1904, No. 8, p. 173.