

sage, even in thought, when I make the suggestion. I certainly am not then thinking about my patient or at him. Using the term 'mind' in the popular sense, it does seem that the suggestions which I make are not addressed to it at all." "In all cases the mode of administration is essentially the same. When dealing with persons to whom it is new, I usually explain that the purpose of it is to render the nerves involved incapable, for the time being, of producing the sensation of pain. There is no hypnotism about this form of suggestion, no mesmerism, no animal magnetism, no mind cure. The effect does not interfere in any way with the freedom of the patient, it works no charm and casts no spell upon him, exerts no control over his will, and makes no change in his thinking. My wish is to accomplish one definite result and nothing else, viz., to take away the feeling of pain from the consciousness which might otherwise suffer. If the patient is sceptical, I tell him that his doubt or faith will not alter the result, since it is not a matter of opinion but of sensation. Confidence in the treatment is not necessary, nor will any attempt to resist vitiate the effect. Having thus assured the patient and put him at his ease, I ask him to seat himself in a comfortable position, be quiet a few minutes, and think of anything he pleases, while I suggest to his nerves how to behave. Sometimes I show a patient what nerves are producing the sensation of pain, and locate the centres by placing my hand on his head. Some action of this sort is often useful with children, as a tangible evidence to them that something is being done." He presents the statement of a literary gentleman relative to his mental experience during the "treatments" he had received. He says: "I was never aware of the particular thing suggested each time, but only of the desired outcome of all the treatments. During the 'suggestion' we (operator and patient) sat quietly without speaking, my mind being perfectly at liberty. The suggestion occupied, as a rule, about twenty minutes, during which time I usually repeated poetry to myself or looked across to Boston, of which there is a fine view to be had from Mr. Barrows' windows."

CHRISTISON.

SOME MEMORY TESTS IN WHITES AND BLACKS. Psychological Review, May, 1897.

Geo. R. Stetson (Washington, D.C.) tested one thousand children in the fourth and fifth grades in the Washington schools, and found the colored children about equal to the whites in ability to memorize, a finding at variance with Ribot's idea that attention is a product of civilization. The colored children selected were the darkest in the schools. An intellectual difference between the two races was shown in the fact while the average age of the whites in the fourth grade was 10.63 years, and in the fifth grade it was 11.40, the average age of the blacks in the same grades was higher, being for the fourth grade 12 years and the fifth grade 13.14 years.

CHRISTISON.

DISCRIMINATION IN CUTANEOUS SENSATIONS. Psychological Review, May, 1897.

Leon M. Solomons (Harvard) experimented on two subjects with the points of a dull compass, sometimes using both points and sometimes one point about an equal number of times, but with a studied irregularity of order. They were applied to the "fleshy part of the forearm." One subject was regularly told he was right or wrong; the other subject was not. At the start both distinguished two points at about one and a half inches apart. After a few weeks' practice the subject who was regularly told he was right or wrong, had reduced the distance to about a quarter of an inch, while the perceptionness of the

other subject remained practically the same. This subject was then treated in the same way as the other, when he made rapid improvement. It was also observed that the ability to localize by requesting the subject to place his finger of the other hand upon the spots touched was not near so good as the power to discriminate between the sensations of one or two points. Also, it was found, that while simultaneous touching with two points required them to be one and one-half inches apart to produce the sense of doubleness, only one-half inch difference was required to produce the same effect by two points successively applied. Expectant attention was found to deceive every time. The conclusion is that the elements of number and space involved in the sensations are not cutaneous, but are the results of a mental process which is improved by training. CHRISTISON.

CLINICAL.

ALCOHOLISM IN NURSELINGS.

M. Vallin (*Jour. de Méd.*, Nov. 10th, 1896) believes that very injurious effects are commonly produced in infants by overindulgence in alcohol on the part of the wet nurses, and cites many instances in support of his opinion. Nearly all cases observed resembled each other. An infant several months old, will, without appreciable cause, become nervous, agitated and irascible. Offering the breast fails to calm it. During sleep it grinds the teeth, suffers from nightmare, or there may be complete insomnia. After these crises of agitation, a deep, prolonged, almost comatose sleep comes on, during which the face is distorted, and the limbs twitch with sudden jerking movements. Soon follow convulsions, sometimes feeble and localized, and sometimes general and almost incessant. After several days these symptoms disappear, to return at irregular intervals, probably in coincidence with new excesses on the part of the nurse. Vallin believes the majority of wet nurses drink at least one bottle of wine a day, and generally beer in addition. This amount he considers excessive, yet it is commonly exceeded. He would recommend the following as the proper allowance of liquid for a nurse: Half a litre of wine daily, taken while eating; one litre of milk, pure or diluted with water, during the intervals between meals, and fresh water at discretion, sweetened with some fruit syrup. FREEMAN.

TREMOR FOLLOWING LA GRIFFE. M. M. de Buck and de Moor. (*Jour. de Médecine*, Nov. 10th, 1896).

While the nervous manifestations consecutive to grippe are almost innumerable, tremor is of very rare occurrence in this connection, and few cases have been published. In the present instance the patient exhibited tremor, twice, after two attacks of influenza, a year apart, the second time much more marked than the first. The tremor involved the right arm and leg, was continuous while the patient was awake, but ceased during sleep. It was considered to belong to the category of hysterical tremor, being in a latent state until revealed by the grippe acting with predilection on the nervous system. The treatment consisted of subcutaneous injections of spermine. Every day 25 centigr. of hydrochlorate of spermine, dissolved in a generous solution of hydrochloral of sodium, were injected. After three injections a notable amelioration was observed. This treatment was continued for a fortnight, when the patient was able to resume his work. FREEMAN.

RABIES.

R. Lee Seward (*Virginia Medical Semi-Monthly*, Oct. 9th, 1896) reports a case of what seems to be a typical rabies. The patient was a negro, aged thirty-five, who had been severely bitten in the face by