

red color and abnormal softness. The medulla cordis were not examined microscopically. The peripheral nerves showed degenerative changes of an interestial type. The writer believes that we cannot divorce peripheral neuritis from diseased changes in the cerebral organs. The opinion of Strumpell that the same causative influence that produces the neuritis can call for the destructive changes in the central nervous system is concurred in.

J. C.

Mental Disturbance as a Cause of Herpes Zoster.—Anthony Roche, M. R. C. P. I., *British Med. Jour.*, Oct. 20, '94. A lady suddenly received news that her husband had been ordered to India. The next morning herpes was noticed on her left side. An old gentleman learned that a firm in which he was interested had failed. The same evening herpes appeared on his left side. A lady was much distressed at the sudden illness of her son. The following morning the spots were marked. A child aged six, of remarkably equable temperament, was for once disobedient, and sent to bed as a punishment. She cried much during the night and the next morning herpes was apparent. A lady, whose only son was shortly to be married, developed a well-marked herpes zoster on her left side, which she herself ascribed to grief at the loss of her son. In this last case there were pains in the side for several days before the appearance of the spots.

Hysteria.—A. Stodart Walker, M. B. (*Edinburg Med. Journ.*, October, 1894), contributes a very interesting article on 'hysteria' with special reference to this disease in the male and its connection with specific organic trouble of the nervous system. He believes the co-existence of hysteria and syphilis is a marked and definite one, but is not prepared to say whether the particular recognition of one existence of these "hysterical" conditions in specific disease is accompanied by the fact that we are careless of recognizing the same taint in all other nervous organic conditions. He believes this probable, and advises to follow the example of the French, and keep a sharper lookout for symptoms of an "hysterical" nature.

A. F.

PSYCHOLOGICAL.

Uræmic Insanity following Traumatic Stricture of the Uret r.—In the *Archives de Neurologie*, July, 1894, Cullerre reports a case of insanity evidently due to retained urinal products. There was a neuropathic family history, and alcoholic excesses of ten years' duration

as a direct personal factor in the development of mental unsoundness, which manifested itself in this particular instance as acute melancholia with hallucinations and morbid impulses. There was high fever, dry tongue, clay-like complexion and complete anorexia. With improvement in the general condition, brought about by appropriate surgical and medical procedures, there was also a parallel change for the better in the mental state. Alcoholism occupied a subordinate place as a factor in this case although there had been earlier an attack of delirium tremens. General disturbances due to uræmic poisoning produced the mental deviation. The author has called attention in a previous brochure to facts concerning insanity that is the outcome of renal disease.

L. F. B.

THERAPEUTICAL.

The Elimination of Lead in Chronic Lead Poisoning.—J. Dixon Mann, M.D. F.R., C.P., *British Medical Journal*, Feb. 25, 1893). Lead is slowly and more or less continuously eliminated by the bowels, and to a very much less extent by the kidneys. When once deposited in the tissues, it exists as a stable compound over which drugs have little if any power. The best aids to elimination are baths and general massage, together with fresh air, good food, and all other measures by means of which the general health may be improved and healthy metabolism promoted. Whilst denying that potassium iodide promotes elimination of lead, the possibility of its being beneficial in some other way in chronic lead poisoning is not disputed.

A. F.

Prophylaxis of Degeneration.—*La France Médicale*, September 28, 1894, gives an abstract of Berillon's views upon the care of children showing marks of degeneration, a subject of importance to all interested in hygiene and the amelioration of human life. Not alone does degeneracy manifest itself by physical stigmata, by functional troubles like incontinence of urine, yawning, convulsive attacks, and by mental troubles, such as night terrors, somnambulism and perverted instincts. It also expresses itself in a special way by a tendency to automatic actions or habits. The frequency of unpleasant personal habits in degenerates is explained on the ground that the inhibitory or moderating power of the healthy brain is in them more or less in abeyance. These personal habits are invariably in direct opposition to the laws of health. A child who bites the nails, for instance,