

From these facts the author concludes that the abnormal coloring matter is a precursory state of the normal urinary pigment, being a lesser oxidized stage of it. Consequently there must have been a default of oxidation; and if this occurred in the pigment of the urine, we may infer that there existed a deficit in the oxidation of the other substances throughout the body. The auto-intoxication, one might suppose, would be produced by a default of oxidation, more especially in those substances which originate in the body. No necropsy was obtainable in either case. A. F.

### TREPHINING AND OPENING THE DURA MATER AS A DIAGNOSTIC MEASURE IN DISEASES OF THE BRAIN.

Dr. Miles F. Porter (Medical News, October 11, 1890) relates the case of a boy of twelve who for several years suffered from epileptoid convulsions. After a time he did not lose consciousness during the attacks, which would commence by flexion of the fingers of right hand, quickly followed, first by tonic, then clonic spasm of the right upper and lower extremity and right side of the face. Paralysis came on later, involving first the thigh and leg, then the arm, and lastly the face on right side; motor aphasia developed with the facial paralysis.

He regarded the case as one of epileptoid convulsions from organic cortical disease, or subcortical, about the Rolandic fissure; but exploratory trephining revealed nothing. After operation the convulsions decreased in number and severity, speech improved, and he now walks unassisted. In explanation he says the local shock was promptly followed by a corresponding reaction, in which the vitality of the tissues had been raised sufficiently high to determine a return to the normal state. Dr. Porter believes that exploratory operations should occupy the same relation to brain surgery that they do to abdominal surgery. A. F.

### A CASE OF VISCERAL NEURITIS.

In the "Alienist and Neurologist" for October, Dr. John Ferguson, of Toronto, reports the case of a woman, aged forty, who had, following an attack of *la grippe*, the most agonizing paroxysms of pain, coming on mostly toward morning. Despite all efforts to relieve the patient, she gradually grew worse, and died after two weeks of great suffering. The examination of the nerves and ganglia