

this he concludes that the method may protect the healthy individual against cancer. In all cases the treatment has proved absolutely harmless, and it is to-day one of the principal resources in the combat against this disease.—*Revue de therapeutique*, 1905, No. 21, p. 728.

**Strychnine and Nitroglycerin in Circulatory Disorders.**—O. H. BROW considers the indications for either of these drugs perfectly clear. Strychnine is indicated when there is low blood pressure, a rapid heart, and a bounding and easily compressible pulse; nitroglycerin is indicated when arterial tension is high, the heart rate slow, the pulse full and tense, and the wave very slight. In case of degenerative changes in the heart muscle the signs might be slightly different from the above. The virtue of nitroglycerin in rendering aid to the heart depends on its reducing the resistance against which the systole works. For this reason it has incorrectly been said to be a cardiac stimulant. Strychnine and nitroglycerin are directly opposed to each other in their effects on the circulation, and hence when one is indicated for its effect upon the circulation the other is contraindicated. The former is indicated in cases of reduced, and the latter in cases of increased arterial tension.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1906, No. 2, p. 116.

**The Length of Time Necessary for the Carlsbad Treatment of Gallstone Disease.**—F. FINK states that the duration of the treatment should be measured by the diminution of symptoms referable to the biliary tract and the improvement in general health. For most patients the usual period of three weeks is insufficient, for they go home with the same lesions with which they came, as proved by recurrences of symptoms. It is usually necessary to remain at the spa for five or six weeks in order to procure any favorable effect whatever and certain individuals should visit the resort every spring and fall in order to keep their disease latent. Other patients are unable to obtain permanent relief without operation. *Munchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, 1905, No. 40, p. 1931.

**New Treatment of Constipation.**—A. SCHMIDT considers one of the chief causes of constipation to be the complete digestion of all the food taken, leaving little or no residue to ferment and produce the fatty acids so necessary to stimulate the peristalsis of the large intestine. To counteract this the author proposes a diet consisting of fatty and vegetable foods leaving considerable undigested residue. Agar-agar is an excellent addition to the diet and of it 6 drachms may be given daily in the form of dried scales. These cause no digestive disturbance but swell in the intestine, soften the fecal matter and appear unchanged in the stools. Under this treatment the movements become spontaneous, abundant, and soft. If necessary cascara may be given as an adjunct. The author has used paraffine instead of agar-agar and when given in capsules in dose of 1 ounce daily the stools become moist, soft, and contain numerous drops of this substance.—*Munchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, 1905, No. 41, p. 1970.

**Passive Congestion in Therapeutics.**—E. JOSEPH believes that the fluid in artificial oedema remains sterile even in severe suppurative infections and that it acts as a bactericide, the bacteria not being able to survive in the presence of a toxic fluid to which they themselves