

Periscope.

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY.

LES MERES ET ALCOOL (Mothers and Alcohol). Maurice Nicloux (L'Obstetrique, March 15, 1900).

The author reports an extensive series of experiments with the following conclusions: Ingested alcohol passes from the mother to the fetus and into her milk, the proportion in the blood of the fetus and in the milk being about the same as in the blood of the mother. Therefore the nervous condition, drunkenness, anesthesia, etc., of the drinking mother must indicate a marked toxicity in the infant, and the whole baneful influence of alcohol upon the tissues is exerted during their process of formation, with especial injury to the nervous system.

JELLIFFE.

DIE URSACHE DES NEURASTHENIE (The Origin of Neurasthenia). L. Höflmayr (Deutsch. Archiv. f. klin. Med., Vol. 66, Dec. 13, 1899, p. 492).

The author is not satisfied that neurasthenia is a form of nerve fatigue, and does not believe that severe nervous exertion produces a chronic effect in healthy persons, any more than a severe physical exertion does. He calls attention to the fact that epidemics of neurasthenia are not common after arduous campaigns, although, if the current theories are accepted, they certainly should be. He therefore falls back upon the auto-intoxication theory, believing that there are two sources from which the poison may be derived; either from the respiratory tract as a result of imperfect exchange of the gases, and he instances in proof of this the readiness with which neurasthenics become fatigued in impure air; or from the gastro-intestinal tract, as the result of the formation of poisons during fermentation of the food. SAILER.

UEBRE EINE NEUE FORM HEREDITÄREN NERVENLEIDENS (SCHWACHSINN MIT ZITTERN UND SPRACHSTÖRUNG (A New Form of Hereditary Nervous Disease—Feeble Mentality with Tremor and Disturbance of Speech). O. Giese (Deutsche Zeitschrift für Nervenheilkunde, Vol. 17, Nos. 1 and 2, p. 71).

Giese describes a peculiar form of family disease that cannot be easily classified. In two children, brother and sister, who had no hereditary tendency to nervous disease, but were somewhat feeble mentally, a peculiar group of symptoms gradually developed during the period of puberty, viz.: increased mental feebleness; slow, monotonous, indistinct speech; irregular tremor of the hands and of some of the facial muscles, present during rest but increased by motion; uncertain gait, exaggerated reflexes, and general muscular rigidity, especially marked in the case that had existed the longer. Sensory disturbances were not observed. A peculiar fatigue of the muscles of speech and respiration was noticed after the patients had been talking awhile. The tremor was increased by voluntary motion and closure of the eyes. Giese did not obtain a necropsy in either case, as both patients were still living when his report was written. The pathology of this disease is not known.

SPILLER.