ON HYDROPHOBIA.

During 1851 and 1852, an epidemic of hydrophobia raged in Hamburg having come there with the Austrian troops from Jutland, where it originated in 1850, through Schleswig and Holstein. 267 cases occurred, 125 in the town itself, most of them shut up and closely observed. Cases of both raging and dumb madness occurred, both apparently depending on the same poison. Dr Zimmerman gives a good account of the post-mortem appearances, as these differ in no respect from those formerly published in this Journal, we pass to a more interesting point, viz., its communicability to man. He knew of thirty people bit by mad dogs, not one of whom became hydrophobic, not from treatment preserving them, for only a few were treated, and they only with the usual external appliances, and he and his friends heard of many more who had likewise been bitten without any bad consequences, and without employing any, even the simplest, preventive measures. In fact, during the whole course of the epidemic, the only man who became hydrophobic, and died from it, was bitten by a dog not mad. The dog was killed, and examined by Veterinary Surgeon, Schräder, who had made 120 dissections of dogs during the epidemic, and who distinctly asserted there was little or nothing wrong with any organ in the body, and certainly not a trace of the appearances proper to rabies canina. Zimmerman says, that in all

PATHOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

ELSÄSSER ON THE ALKALINITY OF HUMAN MILK.

Elsässer examined the milk in 385 cases in the Stuttgart Lying-in-Hospital, and his experiments, like those of Donné and Simon, have shown that freshly drawn human milk, in the healthy condition of the breast, is alkaline in reaction. Among these 385 cases he found the milk neutral in only 45 cases, and only in one instance did he observe an acid reaction. Among animals, on the other hand, viz., among cows, mares, and sheep, he found that the milk in its normal and healthy condition varied very much in the reaction it gave. In carnivorous animals, as cats and dogs, he found that the urine was only acid when they were fed on a mixed diet. — Württemberg. Corresp. Blatt. No. 23. 1853.

ON HYDROPHOBIA.  

BY DR ZIMMERMAN.

7. The peripheral part of the lens softer than the central.

Fick sees in the erectile and contractile vessels of the processus ciliaries an apparatus by which, the form of the bulbus remaining unchangeable, in the state of impletion of the vessels, pressure is exercised on the anterior capsula of the lens, while through their depletion into the vena vorticose a pressure is exercised on the posterior capsula, effecting the lens slightly to advance towards the anterior chamber, and to become at the same time rather more convex—a process in which the difference in the consistence of the fluids of both chambers is likewise of importance. — Muller's Arch., and Brit. and For. Med. Rev.
known cases the disease found its origin only in the bite of a dog already mad, and that other animals, as horses, so bitten, likewise became mad. The last opinion seems to require confirmation; the former is not borne out by his facts of fifteen dogs bitten by a known mad one, two only became mad; two ran away, eleven remained healthy. He instances also the gradual dying out of the epidemic, after orders had been given to destroy all dogs found at large; but surely this cessation was to be expected at any rate, after a nearly two years' duration of the epidemic, and the destruction, moreover, of 1100 dogs. The fact also of the dogs inhabiting the islands of the Elbe, escaping while all the neighbouring country was ravaged by the disease at the most, only shows the disease to have been contagious and does not necessarily show the bite to have been the means of rendering it so. And, besides, such unaccountable immunities are continually presenting themselves even in diseases known to be epidemic, and we here use the word as the contrast of contagious; while the escape of at least eleven out of fifteen bitten by a dog known to be mad, shows that even to its own species the bite is not so fatal as supposed; and to man, how much less. He does not believe that an animal poison can remain latent and local for days or months, and then develop itself. He is likewise of opinion that hydrophobia in man, possesses no characters common to that of the dog, but is truly a species of tetanus, and probably often produced by mental emotion; though, doubtless, the bite of a mad or even angry dog may cause it. Both from fright, and also, from perhaps some alteration in the fluid of a nature similar to that caused by anger or anxiety in the breast milk of nurses, which many a time has killed the child by convulsions or tetanic spasms.—Casper's *Vierteljahrschrift für gerichtliche medicin*. Band. 4, Heft. 1.

**DR DRESSLER OF WURZBURG ON A CASE OF INTERMITTENT ALBUMINURIA AND CHROMATURIA.**

A weakly boy, aet. 10½ years, was seized every forenoon with a feeling of intense cold accompanied by chilliness of the extremities, a small weak pulse, pale face, and blueness of the nose and ears. This lasted for some hours, and terminated without the occurrence of heat. Sleep and appetite were not impaired by the attack; but vomiting sometimes occurred during it. On the 27th December, the urine passed immediately before the attacks, was observed to be small in quantity, and of a dark reddish-brown colour; it deposited an amorphous, granular, dirty-brown sediment, which contained no blood corpuscles. It was very faintly acid in reaction; and when treated with nitric acid it yielded a dark flocculent precipitate, of albumen combined with colouring matter. The urine voided before and after the attacks displayed the same peculiarities. A few days after the occurrence of the attacks, and after the commencement of medical treatment (which consisted of the administration of quinine and flesh diet), viz., on the 1st January, the urine contained no albumen, but deposited a granular pigment. Two days after this the albumen reappeared, in combination with pigment and urate of ammonia. For several days the urine contained albumen; the morning urine was clear and transparent, while that passed at night was brown coloured, and deposited a sediment. The symptoms meanwhile underwent a change, by the paroxysms of cold subsiding, and a feeling of general unpleasantness, accompanied by pain in the feet, succeeding in their stead. The albumen and pigment continued to be found in the urine for several weeks; and the patient finally recovered by the persevering employment of quinine, decoct. Cinchonæ, and flesh diet, with latterly a little wine. Virchow obtained a large quantity of blue pigment or aroglancin (Harnblau) from the urine of this boy.—*Virchow's Archives für Pathol. Anatom., Bd. vi.* Hft. 2.

PROFESSOR MAUTHNER ON THE TREATMENT OF ALBUMINURIA OF CHILDREN.

Formerly it was customary to treat this and all other dropsical affections with diuretics. Mauthner, however, in the dropsy which occurs after scarla-
tina, and is accompanied by bloody and albuminous urine, sedulously avoids whatever might overstimulate the kidneys, as likely to cause an acute renal inflammation, or an attack of Bright's disease. He has seen many cases where the swelling increased daily in spite of the administration of squills, digitalis, bitart potassae, etc., in which a cure was effected by a simple regulation of the diet. In such cases he advises the exclusive administration of milk, and rice and milk, or at most of decoct. althee, or of decoct. lini. sem. By the exclusive use of milk-diet, he has seen the action of the kidneys so regulated, that a copious secretion of urine, free from albumen, was established, by means of which the dropsical condition was removed. When the administration of milk fails to effect a cure, he endeavours by means of alkaline agents, to alter the condition of the urine; and, for this purpose, he prefers using the alkali of the urine itself. He accordingly administers \textit{urea} in small doses (either in the form of pure urea, or of the nitrate of urea), giving generally the third of a grain for a dose, in combination with a little powdered sugar. After six or eight grs. of the urea had thus been taken, he has frequently seen profuse diuresis occurring, followed by the speedy disappearance of the dropsical affection.—\textit{Journal für Kinder Krankheiten}, 1854. \textit{Hft. 1 and 2.}

PROFESSOR ALBERS ON THE ACTION OF THEINE AND CAFFEINE.

From experiments made upon frogs and rabbits with the citrates of cafeine and theine, Professor Albers has ascertained the following to be the physiological actions of these substances:

1st. Both salts are capable of producing in frogs a tetanic rigidity of the body as complete as that induced by strychnia. 1 gr. introduced below the skin has this effect.

2d. They affect not only the external parts, but also the action of the heart, and in this respect theine is the more active narcotic.

After the administration of both alkaloids, the heart was found to be much contracted, a circumstance which distinguishes their action from that of other narcotic alkaloids. Their action occurred more violently in the cold-blooded than in the warm-blooded animals; strychnia, on the other hand, affects both in the same degree. Caffeine produces the same effects when administered internally as it does when introduced into a wound. It is worthy of note that although cafeine affects thus violently the nervous system of frogs, it acts, when given to men, or especially to women, as a most powerful sedative and anodyne, especially in cases of neuralgic headache. The dose in such cases should not be large; from 3 to 5 grains is rather too much; 2 gr. is quite sufficient to administer.—\textit{Deutsche Klinik}. 51.

PROFESSOR MAUTHNER OF VIENNA ON THE TREATMENT OF CRUSTA LACTEA AND INFANTILE ECZEMA.

The following treatment is adopted for cases of crusta lactea in St Anne's Hospital at Vienna, by Professor von Mauthner. The crusts on the head are softened by the application of oil, and the scalp is covered during the process with oiled silk, or with a portion of an ox's bladder. In some cases the hair is cut, and the parts are washed with tepid water and soap. To prevent the eczema spreading to the forehead and eyes, he circumscribes its progress by means of a boundary of collodion. When eczema, affecting the face and extending under the ears, is discharging much matter, he orders it to be dusted with hair-powder; and when it is accompanied by great itching he applies the \textit{ceratum cetacei}, according to this formula, B cetacei 3vj.; \textit{cerae alb.} 5ij.; \textit{ol. olivar. opt.} 3j. \textit{Misc.} He has found warm baths of great service, but the use of cold water—in the form of baths, douches, or epithems—although it sometimes has a good effect, generally predisposes the children to severe diarrhoea, dropsy, and hydrocephalus. With this external treatment Mauthner always combines the internal use of an aqueous extract of walnut-tree leaves, in half-drachm doses dissolved in water. Cod-liver oil he uses occa-
sionally, but he does not find it so beneficial, except where there is a complication of scrofula or rachitis.—*Journ. für Kinderkrankh. Hft. 9 and 10, 1853.*

G. MEISSNER ON CONFERVOID GROWTHS UNDER THE NAILS.

It has long been known that the external skin, like the mucous membranes of the digestive and respiratory passages, may be the seat of vegetable growths analogous to confervae, or to elementary excrescences. G. Meissner, a student of medicine at Göttingen, has recently described a formation of this sort which occurred below the nails of a man aged 80. The nails of this man were much curved; they were a line in thickness, and were of a yellowish colour, here and there approaching to brown. The nail of the forefinger of the right hand was the only one which was normal. When sections of the nails, treated with caustic potash, were placed under the microscope, Meissner observed a rich network of confervoid filaments lying among the cellules of which the substance of the nail was composed. The growth resembled that of porrigo lupinosa, or of pityriasis versicolor. The filaments measured from \( \frac{1}{1000} \) to \( \frac{1}{100} \) and sometimes only \( \frac{1}{10000} \) of a line in breadth. In the midst of these filaments, which articulated and ramified together, composed the mycelium, the author found sporangia, in the form of larger filaments, swollen and club-shaped; and among these sporangia were scattered a multitude of greenish granules which represented the spores. Hence this parasitic growth was in some measure incorporated with the nail, and vegetated in its interior.—*Archiv. für Physiol. Heilkunde,* 1854.

KONOPLEFF ON CROTON-OIL IN DYSENTERY.

On the supposition that dysentery is generally dependent upon some serious obstruction in the bowels, the above author administers croton-oil for the cure of this disease. He adds from 1 to 3 drops of the oil to an emulsion composed of *Aq. menth.* pip. 3 j., and *Aq. Laurocerasi* 3 j. —3 j.; and of this mixture he administers to adults a table-spoonful, and to children a tea or dessert spoonful every half hour. After three or four doses copious stools are passed, at first with and thereafter without blood; and by carefully regulating the diet and administering mucilaginous drinks, after the use of the above mixture, the patient is speedily cured. Should severe diarrhoea follow the use of the emulsion, he alleges that it is easily removed by the Decoctum Salep combined with *Aq. Laurocerasi,* or *Vinum Opii.* In the event of the mixture causing irritability of the stomach and vomiting, he administers the croton-oil in the form of an enema, *without Aq. Laurocerasi,* but combined with from 3 to 10 grs. of Ext. Hyoscyami. Konopleff has administered a mixture containing one drop of the oil to 3 jv. of emulsion to infants at the breast, with the best results. He affirms that by means of this treatment he has never lost a single patient.—*Med. Zeitung Russland,* 48. 1853.

DR. DEITERS ON THE USE OF CUBEBS IN INFANTILE ENURESIS.

This author has found cubebs more effectual than any other remedy in curing the incontinence of urine so common among children. This complaint may depend upon atony of the bladder, or on the presence of intestinal worms. In the former case the cubebs acts as a tonic, in the latter as a valuable anthelmintic. The medicine requires to be given in considerable doses; two pinches (i.e. a few grains or *Zwei Messerspitzen voll*) for infants, and half a tea spoonful twice or thrice daily for children of a somewhat more advanced age. Its effect is speedy and permanent; and although occasionally it happens that during its administration the incontinence returns at periodical or irregular intervals, these recurrences gradually become less frequent, and eventually disappear altogether. To effect a radical cure, the author has often found it necessary to continue its use for a period of from three to eight weeks, and he has never observed any injurious effects from its administration.

Deiters observes that he has found the same remedy most efficacious in
checking nocturnal emissions in cases of spermatorrhea.—Preuss. Verein. Zeitung, No. 16. 1853.

BLASIUS ON THE USE OF BIRCH-OIL IN ECZEMA.

For upwards of fifteen years Blasius has been in the habit of using Oleum Rusci, the empyreumatic oil of the common birch (Betula Alba), with great success for the treatment of eczema. The affected parts are well smeared with the oil every day, and then enveloped in linen cloths; after this has been done for a few days they are well cleansed with soap and water, and then the application of the oil is recommenced. This treatment is continued until not only the formation of vesicles and secretion of fluid are arrested, but until the skin resumes its normal whiteness, smoothness, and softness. Blasius does not recommend the application of the oil so long as the eczema continues to be acute, and attended with inflammation; and when, in chronic cases, it occasions pain, burning, and itch, attended by swelling and redness of the parts, he discontinues its use for a few days, until these troublesome symptoms have quite subsided. This oil is called "Dagged" in Russia and Poland.—Deutsche Klinik, No. 29. 1853.

FRERICHs' CASE OF SUGAR FOUND IN THE FLUID OF ASCITES.

In a case of fatty-liver (speckleber), which occurred in the Medical Clinic at Breslau, ascites existed to a considerable extent, but there was no indication of hepatic carcinoma. In the acitic fluid, removed by the trocar, Frerichs found abundance of sugar, which has never hitherto been discovered in this effusion, when occurring separate from a diabetes. In other cases of ascites, resulting from cardiac disease, etc., this author tried to detect sugar in the effused fluid, but without success. In the case related he attributes the presence of the sugar to the influence exercised by the liver over the formation of sugar in the animal economy; which process, he has observed in many cases, is not interrupted by the occurrence of ascites. In cases of this disease, he is of opinion that sugar should always be looked for in the abdominal effusion, inasmuch as a knowledge of its presence therein, is useful in formning our diagnosis.—Wien. Med. Wochensch., 6, 1854.

GROHE ON THE COMPOSITION OF EXUDATIONS.

This author has succeeded in demonstrating the presence of urea in all abundant exudations occurring on the pleuee or the pericardium, where there existed no venal disease or complication of uraemia. He formerly showed, by negative proofs, that there existed, in the flesh of frogs, the materials for the formation of crystals of nitrate of urea. Like Scherer, he was unable to find any urea in the exudations within the abdomen, or in the liquor amnii.

He found sugar in the pleural and pericardial exudations in a case of epilepsy, and also in a case of chronic pneumonia, combined with suppuration and infiltration of the lymphatic glands. As to the cause of the sugar in the first of these cases he offers no opinion; but in the latter he thinks its presence was occasioned by the interruption of the respiratory functions by the disease.—Oerkaudl, d. physic—med. Gesell, zu. Würzburg. iv. 2.

PROFESSOR MAUTHNER OF VIENNA ON THE APPLICATION OF CONIIN IN SCROFULOUS INTOLERANCE OF LIGHT.

In the non-inflammatory blepharospasm which so frequently occurs in scrofulous children, this author has found the external application of coniin to be productive of the greatest benefit. He gives the following formula for its use: R Coniinae gr. ss: Ol. Amygdal. dulc. 5j Solute. Sig. The eyelids to be pencilled with this emulsion twice or thrice daily. By the use of this preparation, he alleges that the most obstinate cases of blepharospasm may be cured in from eight to fourteen days.

In hard indolent glandular swellings of the neck, he has found this remedy
more efficacious than the application of iodine ointments. — *Journal für Kinder Krankheiten*, 1854. Hft. 1 and 2.

**BREITHAUPF ON NITRATE OF SILVER IN INTESTINAL ULCERATIONS.**

A musketeer, suffering from abdominal typhus, was attacked, in the 5th week with severe dysentery. The use of acetas plumbi and opium subdued the dysenteric symptoms in three weeks, but the fever still continued; the stools were mixed with pus and blood, bed-sores had formed on several places, and the patient was extremely emaciated. All other medicines had failed, when the administration of \( \frac{1}{12} \) grain of nitratus argentii, four times daily, dissolved in distilled water and combined with opium, was found highly beneficial. The dose was subsequently increased to \( \frac{1}{8} \) grain, and the patient recovered completely. He took, in all, 48 grains of the salt. No evil results followed the use of the silver, and the colour of the skin was not in any way altered. — *Med. Zeitung des Vereins für Heilk. in Preussen*, 1853, No. 20.

**DR HÖRING ON THE EXTRACTUM SANGUINI BOVINI.**

This somewhat novel remedy is now beginning to be pretty much used by German physicians. It is prepared according to Mauthner’s process, by straining the blood of the ox through a fine sieve, and drying and powdering the residue. Of this medicine Höring gives from 10 to 30 grains in the 24 hours, according to the age of the patient. He relates the particulars of three cases in which he administered it; the first, a case of curvature of the lower part of the spinal column, with loss of power of limbs; the second and third, cases of tuberculosis, occurring in a child aged 3, and a man aged 40. The treatment was successful in every case, the curvature being arrested in the first, and the cough and emaciation greatly improved in the second and third. — *Württem. Corresp. Bl. 32*, 1853.

**SNEILL ON CUTANEOUS ANAESTHESIA IN LUNATICS.**

A lunatic received a severe injury of the great toe by the fall of a heavy piece of wood, so that the nail was torn away. The author on examining the patient, remarked that he seemed scarcely to feel this injury, ordinarily so very painful. On examining the case more minutely, he found that this lunatic had completely lost cutaneous sensibility. This circumstance led him to examine all the lunatics in his establishment, and he found that out of 180 insane persons (100 males and 80 females), 18 (17 males and 1 female) had complete anesthesia of the skin; and that in 6 others, who were males, the sensibility to pain was very much decreased. — *Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie, X. 2.*

**ESPENBECK ON THE USE OF BELLADONNA IN PROFUSE SALIVATION.**

A woman who had been treated profusely with mercury for the cure of enteritis, had violent salivation from the use of the drug. Extract of belladonna was ordered by Espenbeck, in doses of \( \frac{2}{3} \) grains in an emulsion; and the following day the salivation was found to be completely arrested, and the mouth dry. When the administration of the belladonna was suspended, the ptyalism returned; and again it disappeared when the use of the drug was resumed. Espenbeck has employed it successfully as a prophylactic against salivation. — *Hannover, Corresp. Blatt., June 1853.*

**GARCIA OF ALVAREZ ON THE UTILITY OF FLOWERS OF SPARTIUM SCOPARIA IN ANASARCA.**

Rayer recommended a trial of this remedy in albuminous nephritis, and the above author has found it very serviceable in general anasarca following this disease. The patient was a man, æt. 40, and the anasarca was completely removed, and the albuminuria cured, by the administration of an infusion of the flowers of this plant for a period of fourteen days. — *El. Siglo. Medico., Feb. 1854.*

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