

invigorating power and by its special action upon osseous tissue, to which it carries the calcareous salt or reparative material. Its employment is chiefly indicated according to Dr. Paquet in those cases in which there exist deeply-seated disturbances of the functions of nutrition. The result, which is all but constant, to be obtained from this method of treatment is a marked diminution in the usual length of the period of consolidation. Easy pregnancy, constant appetite, a well developed and vigorous child, a rich milk and abundant supply, are the results obtained by M. Dusart from the employment of lacto-phosphate of lime by the mother. Given to the child it keeps up its appetite, favors nutrition, and thus preserves the infant from most of the ailments which are peculiar to the first period of life. In typhoid fever and its convalescent period, in albuminuria, phthisis, diphtheria, etc., the invigorating properties of lacto-phosphate of lime may be used with advantage.—*Gazette Médicale de Paris, March 11th, 1879.*

PIGMENTATION OF THE FACE IN ABDOMINAL TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER CHRONIC ABDOMINAL AFFECTIONS.—Dr. N. Gueneau de Mussy (*Revue Médicale*, February, 1879) says that, twenty years ago, in a work on the cause and treatment of phthisis, he pointed out the coexistence of pigmentary patches on the face with abdominal tubercle. Since then, the two conditions have been so constantly associated, that he now regards the one as a sign of the other. Tubercular disease of the abdominal viscera is usually indicated by functional troubles which deprive the pigmentation of any diagnostic importance, but not always; and this pigmentation may become of value. It forms bronzed patches, which usually commence in the temporal fossa, and then spread over the forehead, where they may cover the greater part, or lose themselves in a diffused coloration, like that of mulattoes. Sometimes they invade other parts—the nose or the malar region; and they may even appear on other parts of the body, particularly the backs of the hands, and are sometimes so extensive as to constitute a species of Addison's disease. Pigmentation is found in other abdominal affections besides tuberculosis. Dr. Gueneau de Mussy has met with it in four cases of cirrhosis with ascites, and in a case of cancer of the stomach; it is present also in the well-known pigmentation of pregnant women, and may last several months after confinement should anything interfere with restoration to health. It is to be distinguished, however, though often coupled with it, from the greenish-yellow tint not uncommon in abdominal phthisis, and which appears to be associated with fatty degeneration of the liver; and if by its objective character this pigmentation put on the aspect of the melanoderma described by Addison—if in some cases, by its extent, it take this disease as its

model, and appears in, indeed, an early stage—it may well be asked if it have not some pathogenic connections with Addison's disease, if it do not own the same cause, acting with less energy. Dr. Gueneau de Mussy then, passes in quick review the causes of Addison's disease, and concludes that all excess of pigment is developed under the same pathogenic condition: and this is a lesion or irritation of the nervous threads which form part of the suprarenal capsules, and form plexuses in their vicinity. All irritation or lesions of these nerves, in whatever part of the abdomen they commence, will end in the same result. Clinical observation is in accord with this induction. It has been seen that the most different affections situated in all parts of the abdomen are associated with the melanoderma of Addison's disease, or with the partial pigmentation now more particularly in question. And an irritation which is physiological and not habitual, such as that which results from enlargement and congestion of the uterus in gestation, produces the same effect, and explains the formation of the pigmentary mass which is characteristic of the pregnant state.—*Brit. Med. Four.*

NITRITE OF AMYL IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—The nitrite of amyl being a powerful agent in quickening the heart-beat, a few drops of this drug have a powerful influence in restoring the functions of the heart in cases of drowning, hanging, or fainting. It is suggested, therefore, that it should always be used whenever attempts are being made to restore to life an individual apparently dead, or when it is desirable to settle the question whether a person is really dead or not. The dreadful thought of being buried alive has haunted the human race since its earliest days, and the discovery of some means by which this risk could be, if not evaded, at least greatly diminished, would prove an ineffable boon to mankind. Dr. T. Lauder Brunton, to whom we have referred this suggestion, considers it to be a good one. He adds that in ascertaining death the nitrite of amyl might be used along with the cord-test, of tying a cord round the finger. If the circulation have entirely stopped, the part beyond the ligature never becomes any thicker; but if the circulation continue, however slowly, the finger-tip beyond the ligature will sooner or later begin to swell.—*Brit. Med. Four.*

CHLORAL AS AN ANTIDOTE.—Prof. Husemann, of Göttingen, has been engaged in a long series of observations on the antagonistic and antidotal actions of drugs, and some of his investigations which relate especially to chloral are described in a recent number of the *Archiv für Exper. Pathologie*. Of these the following is a summary. Chloral hydrate is known to act as an antidote to strychnine, lessening the spasm, and even preventing