

NOTES ON MEDICAL PROGRESS : OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS.

A MOST remarkable, indeed marvelous, operation was recently performed in the Toronto General Hospital. A man had suffered from occlusion of the intestinal passage near the stomach, and for a year or more nothing had passed through the bowels, all undigested parts of the food consumed having been ejected by way of the mouth. He became greatly emaciated, and something had to be done in order to save his life. An incision was made into the abdominal cavity, and the intestine below the obstruction drawn up and attached to the stomach by sutures, an opening being made between these two attached parts. The editor of this JOURNAL saw the case a few weeks after the operation, through the courtesy of Dr. O'Rielly, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital. No bad symptoms had followed the operation, the case appeared to be progressing most favorably, and the prospects were that the man would regain the action of the bowels.

THE "Laws of Partnership in Disease" was the subject of a paper at the meeting last month of the Hunterian Society of London, Eng., by the president, Pr. Johnathan Hutchinson. He spoke of the cramping effect upon knowledge of the application of single names, arbitrarily defined, to affections not dependent on single causes. Diseases could not be classified like members of our fauna and flora. Disease should be looked on not as distinct species, but as the outcomes of a varying intermixture of causal influences. Few diseases were true "hybrids;" "mongrels," or crosses between varieties of the same species were commoner.

LOCOMOTOR ATAXY, Dr. Hutchison said, commonly associated with past syphilis, was the result of sexual excesses acting upon a spinal cord damaged by a syphilitic fever. Bacilli found in any disease, were often wrongly thought to be its sole cause.

AS TO tuberculosis, all the diseases known as scrofula must be regarded, as our forefathers regarded them, as the result of a complicated partnership. The bacillus was one of the partners; it stamped the disease with peculiarity, and originated its infectiveness. But bacillary tuberculosis was only an epiphenomenon of scrofulosis. Inheritance, diet, and a variety of influences brought about the defective vigour of scrofulous tissues, and their proneness under slight provocation to take on chronic inflammation. "Bad flesh to heal" was the old definition of the scrofulous state, and remained true still, which offered the soil in which the bacillus flourished.

LUPUS, Dr. Hutchinson regarded as a form of chronic inflammation generally allied to scrofula, and only exceptionally becoming the nidus for bacilli. All forms of lupus were partnerships.

MONOCHLOROPHENOL, recently prepared by Sig. Tacchini, of Pavia, is a very volatile, powerful antiseptic, free from disagreeable odor and caustic action, giving off vapours much heavier than air, which are, it is supposed, able by their weight to penetrate into the most remote recesses of the pulmonary air cells. It is said to be well borne (Brit. Med. Jr., Nov. 7), to relieve the worst symptoms of pulmonary phthisis, and five cures of this disease are reported, after two months treatment, the cases showing no return of symptoms after five months.

NITRO-GLYCERINE seems to hold its reputation in angina pectoris. In the British Medical Journal (Oct. 31) is a copy of a letter from a clergyman who had found great benefit from it; in doses of "one-hundredth of a grain in alcoholic solution." He says, it is as effectual now as at first; three or four doses may be taken in the day. "My heart beats more quietly than it has done for years. The irritability is immensely lessened, and intermittence practically ceased.

URIC ACID as a Cause of High Arterial-Tension was the subject of a paper by Dr. A. Haig, at the Meeting of the Royal Medical and Surgical Society, Oct. 27. He said that, other things being equal, arterial tension varied directly with the amount of uric acid in the blood; and that opium, mercury, and other drugs probably affected arterial tension by their action on uric acid.

DR. A. BOWIE (London Lancet) reports two cases of cardiac failure in which death seemed imminent, that were speedily relieved by small doses of the tincture of nux vomica every half-hour for four doses, then every hour. He considers it the most valuable remedy that we have.

DR. THOMPSON, in the course of his last series of lectures at Gresham College, drew special attention to the contrast as to nervous sequelæ between influenza and diphtheria. In diphtheria paralysis was motor; in influenza it was essentially sensory.

WEISS, of Vienna, says that an early symptom of locomotor ataxia is an inability of the patient to walk backward, while in other ways he may walk with rapidity and certainty.