

ments of the parotid, submaxillary and cervical glands, these have not only become reduced but the general eczematous condition has steadily improved.

Ringer remarks that, "In health nutritive plasma escapes from the blood-vessels into the adjacent tissues and is afterwards absorbed by the lymphatics and possibly by the blood-vessels. Thus transfusion and absorption counterbalance each other." But if the balance be disturbed the parenchymatous tissue must become engorged either by excessive transfusion or deficient absorption. Where apparently the processes of nutrition are in the full vigor of activity, it appears that deficient absorption, must be the cause of serous infiltration. This may be due probably to nervous obstruction alone, but certainly, according to certain experiments on dogs, through an affection of the nervous system. Thus it has been found that the division of the nerves within the spinal canal (before the vascular nerves join them) does not produce dropsy, but inasmuch as cutting the sciatic plexus produces dropsy we must conclude that the paralyzing influence is due to the injury to the vasa-motor nerves. Assuming that irritative hyperæmias as by the teeth, etc., are produced, then the stasis and nervous engorgement mean similarly lymphatic engorgement with exudation.

After illustrating the manner in which digitalis reduces a dropsy, Ringer discusses the method in which potassium iodide promotes absorption of the fluid, and concludes that it does so largely by stimulating absorption. But inasmuch as its effects if continued are those of an arterial and cardiac depressant, it is not improbable that its influence in removing obstructions is by lessening arterial pressure (Stuart). If this line of reasoning be correct regarding the influence of potassium iodide in producing absorption, and should its influence in this form of eczema be borne out, we shall feel that in practice we are applying it to a set of conditions of daily occurrences, and that its use need not be limited to *E. infantile*. The well-known and constant benefits of iodides in glandular enlargements of a scrofulous character, will, we take it, be best explainable along this line, while its constant use in secondary and tertiary stages of syphilis, in which bubonic and periosteal thickenings and gummata in various structures are reduced, seems to connect in an unusual degree these various evi-

dences of imperfect excretory functions. We have it as the *dictum* of prominent syphilologists that fifty per cent. of all skin diseases are due to syphilis, but we imagine that the argument as derived from the use of remedies is upon the *post hoc ergo propter hoc* basis rather than upon any even tolerably accurate hereditary history.

If we look closely into the physiological basis of this glandular and lymphatic engorgement we find that vaso-motor irritation as a direct cause is very probable, since in the observations on the effects of drugs on the vaso-motor, as also of direct stimulation, the vaso-motors which supply the glands instead of contraction cause dilatation of the vessels in them (Brunton). Similarly in the paralysis of dentition, a case is recorded by Fleiss (Brunton on Infantile Paralysis) where the post mortem appearances (death having occurred by accident the same day the paralysis set in), showed no organic change in either the spinal cord or in the brachial nerves, but a striking turgescence of the veins of the shoulder and neck. Brunton thereafter adds, "This vascular congestion seems to point to vaso-motor disturbance of a somewhat similar kind to that which we have already noticed in occipital headache."

The reflex irritation caused by undigested food in the intestines thereby forcing the blood into other parts, similarly points to the same engorgement of the venous and lymphatic systems and to production of eczema, as also other dermatoses. It is hardly necessary to state in conclusion that the line of argument intended to point out the dominating influence which engorgement of the venous and lymphatic systems has in the causation of eczema with the resulting indications as to the line of treatment, does not in any degree lessen the necessity for either local treatment, or the still greater importance for removing, when possible, the many causes of vaso-motor irritation.

#### NOTES ON CASE OF LEFT HÆMATO-SAL-PINX—RUPTURE—ABDOMINAL SECTION—RECOVERY AND SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCY.

BY JAMES F. W. ROSS, L. R. C. P., LONDON, PHYSICIAN TO WOMAN'S HOSPITAL, TORONTO.

S. A., age 38, married 16 years, 7 labors; first 1872, last 1882; first with instruments; 3 miscarriages. Has pain lifting, coughing or sneezing; hysterical when first married. Pain severe on