made a demonstration before the jury of the gonococcus by isolation and cultivation. The case was in this wise: "A man had been accused of violating a little girl; upon the linen of the accused and of the plaintiff were spots of pus, these were submitted to two experts, the one a physician, the other a chemist. These reported that the spots were due to gonorrhœal pus. The lawyer for the defendant demanded a search for the gonococcus to be made by other experts, upon their giving a negative answer as the results of their investigations, the case was held over and Dr. Castian, professor of Medical Jurisprudence, (à la Faculté de Médicine de Lille), was appointed to make the inspection. He wished to associate the author with him, and a cultivation of the pus (obtained by macerating the cloth in water) in agar agar, peptonised and sweetened, was attended by such happy results, that they were able to affirm the gonorrhœal nature of the spots. Finally, he says, our researches enabled us to confirm the judgment of the experts, completely in the affirmative.

### Study on the Death of Cleopatra.

The above is the title of a thesis by Dr. Viaud Grand-Marais, professor à l'Ecole de Médicine de Nantes. The author does not believe in the scorpion tradition. He thinks that the ordinary methods of poisoning were too disgusting to the charming and passionate queen, who captivated the Consul Anthony. She tried on her slaves all kinds of poisons, especially the venom of serpents, but all that was only a method—method of a woman—to discover the poison surest and most rapid, which would permit her to taste a death quick and easy, and lastly with greatest pleasure. She outstrips thus all pessimism and disillusions of life.

M. Viaud Grand-Marais, after having stated that no scorpion was discovered in the chamber of Cleopatra, that upon the body of the queen could be found no trace of stings, that at the foot of the couch were found dead, or dying, the two women attached to her service, thinks that the poison which was used by Cleopatra was carbonic oxide. [Another case of blowing out the gas.—Ed].

## INDEX OF PROGRESS

### SURGERY.

#### Prevention of Syphilis.

The Paris correspondent of the *Medical Press and Circular*, February 15, 1888, states that M. Fournier has presented to the Academy of Medicine the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing the spread of syphilis. The following are the principal articles: 1. The Academy calls the attention of the authorities to the development to which prostitution on the streets has grown, and demands that energetic means be taken to suppress it. 2. The legion of wine shops only assist clandestine prostitution and should be suppressed. 3. A strong and active surveillance should be exercised in the neighbourhood of the colleges, where temptation is rife. 4. A girl proved to be contaminated should be sent to a special sanitary hospital, from which she should not be discharged without being furnished with a medical certificate; at the same time the rules of the hospital should have in nowise the stringent character of the present St. Lazare. 5. The registered women should be visited regularly once a week and once a month by a medical inspector. 6. Instead of increasing the number of beds in certain hospitals in which venereal diseases are treated, new special hospitals should be created outside the walls of Paris, to which free dispensaries should be attached. 7. Every student of three years' standing should have free access to all these institutions, and before presenting his thesis he should produce a certificate justifying a three months' *stage* in one of these services.

### MEDICINE.

#### Transudation and the Influence of the Blood-pressure upon the Behavior of Transudates.

Prof. H. Senator, of Berlin, concludes an article in *Virchow's Archiv*, Bd. cxi, Heft 2, Feb. 1888, with the following statements *(Med. and Surgical Reporter)*:

All transudates, without exception, contain albumin in solution, but in a smaller quantity than the blood-plasma. The quantity of albumin is smallest in normal transudates and in œdema of