

toxic products of erysipelas alone; in other cases he has combined it with the toxins of the bacillus prodigiosus, which he thinks gives some better results, and seems to increase the effects of the erysipelas toxins. Dr. Coley has reported in all nearly one hundred cases thus far treated. Other observers are reporting favorable results along the same line. Many of the cases were inoperable ones; therefore, if this new process of inoculation with pure cultures of the streptococcus of erysipelas proves to be what is reported of it, another great advancement will have been made in the medical profession. European investigators are busily engaged in the same kind of investigations and give likewise the same results.

A NEW GAS.—The discovery of a new gas, or it may be element, is one of great interest. The discovery was communicated about the middle of August, to the Chemical Section of the British Association at Oxford, by Lord Raleigh, *Med. Press*. He announced the discovery of a hitherto unknown constituent of the atmosphere, which he described as a gas characterized by extreme inertness. After he had commenced his investigations, he had been joined by Professor Ramsay, but they have not been able to distinguish the new body by any specific chemical reactions. The density of the substance, of which they had obtained about 100 cc., was 19.09. For the present they have adopted the term "gas" in describing the new constituent, and did not commit themselves to the word "element." As may be imagined, their announcement has excited a good deal of attention amongst the chemists. Notice was first called to this substance by the fact that the density of nitrogen obtained from atmospheric air differed by about half per cent. from the density of nitrogen obtained from other sources. It was found that if air be subjected to electric sparks, the resulting nitrous fumes absorbed by potash, and the excess of oxygen by alkaline pyrogallate, there remains a residue which is neither oxygen or hydrogen, as can be seen from its spectrum. The newly-discovered substance constitutes 1 per cent. of the atmosphere, and gives a spectrum with a single blue line much more intense than a corresponding line in the nitrogen spectrum.

GLYCERINE SUPPOSITORIES INSTEAD OF THE

GLYCERINE TAMPON.—Dr. T. Graham in the *Med. Rec.*, speaks of the advantages of the suppository over the ordinary tampon. He makes each suppository to contain, besides the glycerine, one or two grains each of alum and thymol, and keeps it in place by a pledget of cotton wool. He says the advantages are: 1. Easy application, as it does not require the use of the speculum to place it. 2. Its greater and more prolonged effect on the parts to which it is applied, its action extending over a period of at least thirty-six hours. 3. It can be used in the treatment of the virgin without the use of the speculum, and this I consider its chief merit. I have never been able to understand why a virgin should not be treated locally for uterine disease, if she need treatment, as well as her married sister. Of course she need not be mutilated or abused, but if there were more sense and less sentiment used in treating the virgin for uterine disease there would be fewer married women with chronic utero-mania to wear out the patience of both the husband and the doctor. The glycerine suppository can be inserted into the vagina of the virgin without a speculum and will remain in place without the pledget of wool; or if it seem best the patient can be taught to apply it herself, and thus be saved from the trying ordeal of an examination so graphically described by writers on Gynecology whose practice is not seldom contrary to their published statements.

HEPATIC COLIC WITHOUT GALL-STONES.—Lépine, *Intern. klin. Rundschau*; *Med. News*, contends that hepatic colic may result from simple spasmodic contraction of the gall-bladder or biliary ducts. This opinion is based on both clinical, pathologico-anatomic, and experimental evidence. From the clinical point of view reference is made to the hepatic colic observed in hysterical individuals as a result of emotion, without discoverable cause in the intestinal evacuations. In some individuals the ingestion of certain articles of food is followed by hepatic colic. A case is cited in which after death no concretions were found in the choledoch duct, although a few small grains were present, together with active contraction of the walls of the duct. In dogs spasmodic contraction of the lower portion of the choledoch duct may be induced artificially. It is maintained