

Transitory Circumscribed Edema.

M. Bayet (*La Tribune Médicale*) presented to the Belgian Society of Dermatology and Syphilography a man, aged sixty years, who had been attacked a year and a half previously by fugacious circumscribed edema, which appeared upon different parts of the body. It came first upon the fingers, then upon the hands, the forearm, the scrotum, penis and eyelids. The tongue was also involved, sometimes upon one and sometimes the other side. The lesions, the size of which ranged from ten to twenty centimetres (about four to eight inches), were very fugacious, and lasted from twelve to twenty-four hours. They then disappeared without leaving any trace. There was a cardiac murmur, with irregular action. The complexion was subicterode and the liver was somewhat enlarged. There was neither albumin nor sugar in the urine. Two days previously the abdomen had suddenly swollen. Percussion revealed the presence of an effusion in the lower part of the abdominal cavity. This ascites, so suddenly produced, seemed to bear a relationship to the same causes which had previously given rise to the circumscribed edema. In fact, sudden effusions into joints, the meninges, and pleura, swelling of the parotid gland, and even edema of the lungs have been observed in connection with circumscribed edema of the skin. The speaker was not cognizant of any case in which ascites made a part of the symptomatology of the disease.—*The Medical Bulletin*.

Effect of Hypnotism Upon the Circulation.

By means of sphygmographic tracings, Dr. Bérillon (*Jour. de Méd. de Paris*, Dec. 27, 1902) has studied the effect of hypnotic suggestion and simple hypnotic sleep, without suggestion, upon the normal pulse and upon that of patients affected with functional circulatory disturbances. In a normal subject, slowing and acceleration of the pulse was obtained by suggestion; and in a hysterical subject affected with tachycardia, distinct diminution in the pulse-rate was induced by suggestion. Under the influence of simple hypnotic sleep, without suggestion, marked improvement was noted in the pulse and heart-action of a subject suffering from a functional cardiac affection. The effect of hypnotic sleep upon arterial tension was also striking; in those in whom the tension was above normal it was common to find an increase of more than 100 grams; while in subnormal tension the increase did not appear for some time, and it was necessary to prolong the sleep for several hours to obtain the best results. In cases of normal tension, the increase was even slower in appearing, and less marked. These effects could be produced only when the