

SLEEPING WITH THE HEAD LOW.—The practice of raising the head by pillows during sleep is almost universal, but according to Dr. Meuli-Hilty (*Med. Record*), the reverse position should be assumed when we go to rest. The Dr. made experiments in his own person, and found that when he slept with his head lower than his feet, he always awoke more refreshed and capable of performing better work than after a night's rest in the usual position. He has continued the practice for four years, and considers it is the correct attitude for sleeping. His idea is that the brain receives more blood and is consequently better nourished, hence more capable of hard work. Congestion of the brain is prevented by the thyroid gland, which he found increased in size so as to make the circumference of the neck nearly two inches greater. He also claims it is a prophylactic against pulmonary phthisis, since the apices of the lungs receive a fuller supply of blood, under gravitation, and are therefore more able to resist disease.

IODOFORM IN PHTHISIS.—It is said (*Med. Rec.*) that iodoform is becoming the regular treatment in phthisis and other lung affections. Some Italian medical men have been making extensive trial of the agent, and have found it very beneficial. Prof. Chiamelli has found after observations extending over four years, that it lessens the fever, and by its antiseptic action upon expectorated matters, so alters them as to inhibit putrefaction. The same gentleman thinks it would be very effectual in the treatment of caseous pneumonia. The drug was on trial in phthisis in Edinburgh for some time, but with what result we do not know. M. Verneuil administers two grains twice a day, suspended in ether, and contained in capsules.

PRURITUS VULVÆ.—In chronic cases, Dr. De Mussy orders as a lotion:—Infusion of marsh mallows, 1 litre; cherry-laurel water, 50 grams; subborate of soda, 10 grams. Also an ointment, to be used night and morning, as follows:—Glycerole of starch, 20 grams; bromide of potassium and subnitrate of bismuth, aa 1 gram; calomel, 40 centigrams; extract of belladonna, 20 centigrams.

THE MICROBE OF RABIES.—Dr. Dowdeswell

(*Lancet*) says he has discovered a micrococcus in the spinal cord of rabid dogs, and regards it as specific. It is found in greatest numbers around the central canal of the spinal cord and medulla, but was found in some cases in the blood-vessels. It is difficult to demonstrate, not taking the ordinary stains. He exhibited preparations at the Royal Microscopical Society in June.

ERGOTINE IN BRONCHOCELE.—Dr. James Fox reports a case (*New Eng. Med. Month.*) of bronchocele in a woman aged 43, which had continuously increased since puberty, as cured by hypodermic injections of ergotine. The patient lost 17 pounds in weight in 9 weeks, but at that time the enlargement was all gone, though it had been so large as to cause considerable dyspnoea, as also dysphagia.

LACTIC ACID IN TUBERCULAR LARYNGITIS.—Dr. Theodore Hering has employed the above agent in his hospital. He applied it to the larynx by means of an instrument, commencing with a ten per cent. solution, and increased the strength up to eighty per cent., and in some cases he even used the pure acid. Out of twenty cases only four were not benefited, while four were completely cured, and others variously improved. When the application caused much pain, cocaine was used to allay it.

SANTONATE OF CALCIUM is preferred to santonin by E. Bombelon (*Arch. d. Pharm.*) as a vermifuge. It is a tasteless powder, almost insoluble in water, and to these properties the author attributes the fact that it is more efficient than santonin and less apt to be expelled by vomiting. It should be neutral.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASSIUM IN AMENORRHOEA.—J. Fletcher Thorne, F.R.C.S. Ed., writes to the *Therapeutic Gazette*, that he has never seen the least benefit from the use of the above drug in amenorrhœa, though he has used it in scores of cases. No doubt many others have had a similar experience, but have not given their failures to the public.

BRITISH DIPLOMAS.—F. G. Finley, M.D., McGill, and N. S. Fraser, M.B. Edin., have lately been admitted to the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, England.