

Selections.

Influence of Light in the Production of Cancer. J. N. HYDE,
(*American Journal Medical Sciences*, January, 1906).

The skin of the human body, in a certain proportion of individuals, and in those only, is hypersensitive to the action of the actinic rays of the spectrum. This hypersensitiveness may be exhibited in the production of either hyperemia, pigmentation, telangiectasis, atrophy, hyperkeratosis, or cancerosis of the skin; or by all, at times, in a determined order of succession. In the form of childhood cancerosis known as xeroderma pigmentosum, the pigmentation, telangiectasis, atrophy, hyperkeratosis, and cancerosis of the skin resulting from exposure to rays of light are exhibited early in life, instances of this disorder being exceedingly rare. Pigmentation, telangiectasis, atrophy, hyperkeratosis, and cancerosis of the skin occur in adults much more frequently than in childhood, reaction to the play of actinic rays of light upon the surface being chiefly determined after the middle periods of life have been reached. Physiological pigmentation of the skin in the colored races seems to furnish relative immunity against cancerosis of that organ. The colored races apparently suffer less than the whites from cancer of other organs than the skin. This relative immunity may be due to the protection from actinic rays of light furnished by the pigment of the integument.—*Monthly Cyclopedia of Practical Medicine*.

Arteriosclerosis: Treatment. MANFRED FRANKEL (*Wiener klinische Rundschau*, Nos. 29 and 30, 1905; *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, January, 1906).

The writer considers that iodine is not indicated in this condition, since its only effect is to lessen the tension on the vascular walls. A rational treatment must be one which acts favorably on the metabolism of the vessel walls, strengthens the vasomotor system and lessens the blood pressure. Trunccek's serum has given excellent results, which are due to the action of the salts contained in it; the dyspnea becomes less, owing to the increased alkalinity of the blood, and the sodium salts act directly upon the heart and the vascular epithelium. The use of this serum, however, is painful and the daily injections are wearing upon both physician and patient; as a prophylactic it has the disadvantage that the patient objects to a painful and tedious treatment for an in-