

and sweet oil, one ounce of each. Fold a piece of muslin three or four times, saturate it with the mixture, and cover with dry, warm flannel. Blistering takes place in three minutes.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

PERNICIOUS ANEMIA.

K. M. Vogel, New York (*Journal A. M. A.*, April 1, 1916), discusses the theories of the causation of pernicious anemia, which, he says, belongs to that pleasant group of subjects which are always agreeable to discuss because our ignorance permits us to say a great deal about them. He mentions the changes that we are tending to adopt in our conceptions of the different types of anemia, but even now there are difficulties in attempting to establish a rational classification. We have long been in the way of station primary and secondary anemias which must be abandoned, for logically considered there can be no such thing as a primary anemia, since the blood is not in itself an organ, but is the direct product of the activity of the various blood producing organs or systems and in a sense it can be more properly regarded as a secretion rather than as an organ. To classify the anemias arbitrarily as cryptogenetic or phanerogenetic is not even expedient, for it leads to such extraordinary associations as placing two of the most antithetical diseases of all, pernicious anemia and chlorosis, in the same group. In the last analysis, the anemic state is a result of a disturbance of a normal balance of blood destruction and blood production. In one group the former class predominates, in another it is a deficiency of the latter. It is reasonable, therefore, to divide the anemias into two broad classes, one of which embrace those types in which the reduction of the blood element is most prominent while in the other the significant feature is their abnormal destruction. To the former belong the anemias due to cachexia, wasting diseases, tumors, and some of the toxic anemias, as well as aplastic anemia, and osteosclerotic anemia. In the other group come first the anemias due to hemorrhage and the entire class of so-called hemolytic anemias. Chlorosis is ruled out by Vogel from the anemias. Pernicious anemia finds its place with the hemolytic types and is probably the result of the action of certain hemolytic agencies of varying nature, which are distinctive in evoking a special type of regenerative response on the part of the blood producing organs which gives a definite clinical picture. The conditions observed recall those seen in the developing embryo comprising the well known factors of high color index, macrocytosis, presence of megalocytes, megaloblasts and leukopenia. Admitting the hemolytic nature, the question as to the origin and nature of the hemo-