

Selections.

JABORANDI IN HICCOUGH. Nobel and Stiller (*Centralbl. f. klin. Med.*) respectively refer to the good effects produced by jaborandi in hiccough. Nobel's patient was a man suffering from influenza, and the infusion of jaborandi was used. Nobel draws attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the presence of some cyanosis, the drug had no ill effect upon the heart. He refers to other recorded cases, and adds that it remains to be proved which constituent in jaborandi brings about the good results. Stiller says that he has long used pilocarpine (10 drops of a 1 per cent. solution three or four times a day) in hiccough of nervous origin, and that it is the best remedy known for this condition. He does not employ it in the reflex hiccough of severe abdominal disease and peritonitis. At times, and especially in hysteria, only improvement or temporary cessation in the hiccough has been obtained, necessitating the further use of the drug. Stiller says that the good effects of jaborandi are due to pilocarpine.—*British Medical Journal*.

TREATMENT OF ANASARCA.—Arnemann (*Therap. Monatsh.*) says that treatment by diuretics, diaphoretics, laxatives, cardiac tonics, etc., at length fails, and that measures have to be adopted to let out the fluid. He refers to the danger of infection when this is done by puncture, and for private practice a more convenient method is required than Southey's tubes. The author therefore recommends deep incisions, which should be long and few in number. The fluid is thus drained off rapidly, washing away with it any infecting agents, and so rendering the chances of infection small.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF GRANULAR CONJUNCTIVITIS—(Abadie, in *Gazette des Hôpitaux*), The writer states that in two years M. Darier and he have treated 150 cases with brilliant results. Some of these had been under treatment by cauterization and superficial scarification for years. Others, less chronic, were threatened with dangerous complications. The writer insists on double turning back of the lids under an anæsthetic, so as

to expose the upper part of the superior cul-de-sac, deep scarification of this region, and thorough brushing with a hard tooth-brush, which has been cleansed in alcohol, ether and perchloride of mercury.—*Medical Chronicle*.

EPIDERMIN.—S. Kohn gives (*Arch. f. Derm. u. Syph.*) this name to a mixture of substances suitable for application to the skin. Epidermin is composed of pure beeswax, water, and glycerine, to which lime, lead, etc., may be added, the mixture being worked up into a liniment of suitable consistence, and it is stated some practice is required in its preparation. Epidermin forms a milky, homogeneous mass, which, when spread upon the skin, leaves after it a feeling of coolness, and dries into a delicate, flexible, elastic pellicle. When medicinal substances are combined with the mixture, the water evaporates, and the glycerine retains the flexibility of the pellicle. Epidermin fixes on the skin according to the amount used, whatever drug is employed, for twelve to forty-eight hours. Usually the application is renewed once or twice daily.—*British Medical Journal*.

CHEMOSIS.—B. Lanze (*Lyon Méd.*) deals with chemosis of inflammatory origin—a symptom which may occur in any case of conjunctivitis. It may also accompany a group of nervous affections, and then depends on either intraocular inflammation or on primary or secondary circulatory disturbances. The symptom is apt to favour the occurrence of corneal mischief, ulceration, or even perforation. In his treatment the author departs from the plans usually adopted, and, bearing in mind that the œdema may be due to other than mere local causes, he adopts measures directed to the general circulatory system. To patients with chemosis and hypopyon he gives powders containing 30 cgr. of sulphate of quinine and 25 cgr. of freshly-powdered digitalis. He continues this treatment for several days, gradually reducing the dose. The quinine will have an antithermic action, besides being an efficient cardiac tonic, antiseptic, and diuretic. The action of the digitalis is stated to be that of a cardiac tonic and diuretic. The results seem in any case to have been good.—*British Medical Journal*.