

treating those troublesome cases—ulcers of the cornea—so simple in its application, and, according to its inventor, so successful in its results that it cannot fail to be generally adopted. Hitherto corneal ulcers complicated with hypopion have been treated by puncture either by the knife or thermo-cautery, this operation having frequently to be repeated, and too often leaving behind it opacities, if not actual staphyloma. For this unsatisfactory method M. Valude substitutes a simple dressing, consisting of a pad of salol gauze, which, with a moistened gauze bandage, effectually seals the eye and maintains a certain amount of compression. Before being applied the eye is carefully disinfected. The dressing is not renewed until after three or four days have elapsed, when the ulcer is found to be already healing, and the collection of pus in the anterior chamber much diminished. M. Valude states that the cornea tends to regain its original transparency without any opacities. In corneal ulcers, uncomplicated by hypopion, M. Valude, relying on his experience of fifteen successful cases, asserts that this new treatment is *the treatment par excellence*.

THE ANTISEPTIC PROPERTIES OF BLOOD SERUM.

—In a paper read before the Société de Biologie, of Paris, Dr. Roger (*International Jour of Surg.*) reported some experiments which tend to show that blood serum has the property of greatly diminishing the virulence of microbes. As is well known, complete immunity against erysipelas may be conferred on animals by inoculating them with fairly virulent cultures of the erysipelas-cocci. One month after an inoculation Roger collected the blood of an animal experimented upon, as well as the blood of a healthy animal, and made cultivations of erysipelas-cocci upon the serum of both, for purposes of comparison. He found by microscopical examination that the cultures developed to the same extent, and in the same manner in the blood-serum of both animals, with the single exception that in the serum of the inoculated animal the chains of cocci were somewhat longer than in the other. Rabbits were then inoculated with streptococci which had been cultivated upon the normal serum, and if the cultures were sufficiently virulent, death always took place from general infection. On the other hand, this result was never observed when the cultures used were taken from

the serum of the inoculated animal. If less virulent cultures were employed, the cocci derived from the healthy serum usually gave rise to a moderate grade of erysipelatos infection, while those from the serum of the inoculated animals produced only small abscesses.

THE TREATMENT OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS.—

The following is an outline of treatment of infantile paralysis recommended by Simon (*La France méd., N. Y. Med. Jour*). At first counter-irritation over the spinal column at a point corresponding to the origin of the roots of the nerves affected. For this purpose the least painful agents should be chosen. The functions of the skin should be stimulated at the same time by means of baths of hot water or vapor given in the bed. Chloral, aconite and conium may be employed to calm nervous excitement. After the first eight days, electricity should form the basis of the treatment. Simon uses a weak galvanic current, applying the positive pole to the shoulder and arm, the negative pole being placed in a basin of water in which the child's hand rests. The sitting should never last more than eight or ten minutes. At a later stage faradism may be used, always with the greatest caution. Among drugs, nux vomica is of the greatest service. A drop of the tincture is given twice daily at the two principal meals. At the end of ten days, or earlier if indicated, the nux vomica should be replaced by arseniate of sodium a sixty-fifth of a grain at a dose. The use of these two remedies alternately is to be continued throughout the case. Salt and sulphur baths are recommended, but only in the late stages of the disease. Above all, Simon enjoins us never to be discouraged, as the treatment must necessarily be very long.

JAPAN (says *The Times and Reg.*) is moving for the abolition of licensed prostitution," as some well-meaning, but bigoted fanatics (weak-minded men and strong-minded women mostly), term the Contagious Diseases Act. Meantime the prevalence of venereal diseases among the troops in England, that was very small while these acts were in force, has mounted to 30 and 50 per cent. since their abrogation. In France the ratio of syphilis in registered and clandestine prostitutes was 31 and 239 per 10,000, respectively.