

Miscellaneous

ANTICHARBON SERUM IN MALIGNANT PUSTULE.—Salvatore (*Gazz. degli Osped.*, July 3rd, 1898) records another case of malignant pustule successfully treated by injections of anticharbon serum (Sclavo). Five injections were made, and a total amount of 80 ccm. injected without any ill-effects, either local or general. The author was particularly struck by the sense of well-being which followed the injections. The treatment promptly arrested the cedema and caused its disappearance in a short time. Moreover, the destruction of tissue in the site of the pustule was considerably limited. Reference is made to thirteen other cases in which this serum was successfully used.—*Brit. Med. Journal.*

ARSENIC IN THE HAIR.—E. Schiff (*Wien. klin. Woch.*) reports six series of experiments made upon dogs, with a view to determining whether the ingestion of arsenic led to its deposition in the hair. The dogs were first shaved, and the hair boiled with water, no arsenic being found either in the hair or in the extract. Arsenious acid was then administered for some weeks, commencing with doses of $1\frac{1}{2}$ mg., and increasing gradually to 6 mg. (about $\frac{1}{16}$). When the hair was long enough it was cut, and this was thrice repeated. An aqueous extract contained no trace of arsenic, but the hair itself, after destruction of its organic constituents, could be proved to contain the metal by Marsh's test. It was not, however, in sufficient amount for quantitative estimation. A further experiment was made in order to determine the rate at which the arsenic was absorbed. To this end a dog was poisoned with a large dose of arsenic, and its hair examined, with the same results as in the cases in which the drug had been continuously given.

An explanation is thus afforded of the rapid and valuable action of arsenic in skin diseases, and at the same time confirmation is afforded of the discovery of Brouardel and Pouchet, that arsenic may be found in the hair of victims poisoned by it.—*Brit. Med. Journal.*

EXPERIMENTS ON THE THERAPY OF INFECTED GUNSHOT WOUNDS.—The experiments were made by Dr. H. F. Koller (*Deutsche Zeitschrift für Chirurgie*, Bd. xlvii., p. 211) with bacteria cultures virulent for rabbits, yet not so virulent as necessarily to cause death. Weak cultures of staphylococcus aureus, pyocyaneus, and a streptococcus capsulatus were employed. The experimental gunshot wounds were all made in the thigh, without doing injury to the arteries, nerves or bone. The after-treatment of the wounds was conducted in the following series: (1) In the control animals a simple bandage, with or without suture; (2) energetic thermocautery; (3) pencilling of the wound with strong tincture of iodine solution; (4) drainage of the wound with iodoform gauze; (5) glass drainage; (6) disinfection of the wound with carbolic-acid solution (five per cent). The interesting and practical results showed that the control animals treated with the simple bandage, and the other animals treated with glass drainage or iodoform-gauze drainage, and one (infected with pyocyaneus) treated with five per cent. carbolic-acid solution, were all cured. On the other hand, the remainder of the animals treated with five-per-cent. carbolic-acid solution and those treated by iodine tincture and thermocautery all died. This proves that, despite the destruction of germs in the wound, the bacteria infected surrounding tissues and thus did much harm.—*Med. Record.*