

picric acid. It has been suggested that the substance may be of the nature of a protamin, but there are some objections to this.—*British Medical Journal*, Feb. 23rd, 1907.

Tattoo Marks.

Variot, of Paris, proceeds as follows: "Apply under anti-septic precautions a concentrated solution of tannin to the skin and work it in as in tattoo operation. Then rub skin with pencil (or solution) of silver nitrate until the tattoo marks stand out as black points on the silver tannate. Excessive fluid should be removed; the surface turns black and moderate inflammation follows. In fourteen days the eschar drops off, leaving a red superficial cicatrix which fades in seven or eight weeks." This plan is safe and sure—but painful and tedious. Ordinary slight tattoo marks (powder marks, etc.) may often be removed by pricking in peroxide of hydrogen. Another plan is to tattoo well over mark with needles dipped in a solution of chloride of zinc thirty parts, distilled water forty parts. Eschar drops in two weeks. Then dress area with simple cerate. The fact that the insoluble substances which are used in tattooing become encapsulated explains the difficulty experienced in their removal. Under the microscope excised portions of tattooed tissue show large particles of pigment situated part in the corium, but more generally in the subcutaneous connective tissue itself. In the method by electrolysis the needle is attached to the negative pole of a battery with a current of from two to ten milliamperes and inserted at various points about the periphery of stained area till reaction is marked enough to insure destruction of involved tissue. The dry superficial eschar falls in a few days and the process may be again employed over the adjacent skin.—*The American Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

Importance of Abstinence from Alcohol in Treatment of Cardiovascular Affections.

Galli comments on the wide difference in the views entertained by physicians in regard to the use of alcohol in treatment. The sudden suppression of alcohol, in persons addicted to its use, in the course of pneumonia may entail serious symptoms. The metabolism is exaggerated in this disease, and the excessive drain on the albumin and fats cannot be met by rational feeding, so here alcohol answers a purpose. With affections of the heart and vessels the conditions are entirely