

be due to a different microbe. The disease only occurs in severe cases, and there is no essential difference between so called metastatic parotitis and that following on stomatitis (Virchow, Orth). Then the affection is often unilateral, and if bilateral the two glands are probably not involved to an equal extent, as is the case with a disease of systemic origin—e.g., nephritis. In the less advanced degrees of inflammation the suppurating foci are distributed as in pyelonephritis. Moreover, it is observed that parotitis is often preceded by vomiting and by other conditions tending to make the buccal cavity impure, the most dangerous being cases of fæcal vomiting; whilst in some cases there is a direct connexion with stomatitis or thrush, even where clinically some support might be given to the metastatic doctrine. Dr. Hanau points out that in health Garre has shown the presence of some pathogenic organisms such as the *staphylococcus aureus* amongst those found in the buccal secretions, and states that these microbes increase in number in the fertile state. It is possible, too, that in septic conditions such organisms may pass out of the blood vessels into the mouth. At any rate, in conditions where the flow of saliva is checked there will probably be an accumulation of such organisms and the main salivary ducts be blocked, the position of Steno's duct favouring the involvement of the parotid gland. In an appendix the author refers to a thesis by H. Muller on the *Etiology of Parotitis* (Halle, 1883), where there was clear evidence of infection from the mouth. Hanau also adds a case of acute inflammation of the sublingual gland, where he could trace the course of micro-organisms through the duct walls into the surrounding lymphatic tissue.

DEATH OF MR. IRVING BISHOP, THE MIND READER.

Much interest has been felt in New York in the incidents pertaining to the death of Washington Irving Bishop the famous mind-reader. Mr. Bishop was at the Lamb's club, at dinner, and during the evening gave exhibitions of his sin-

gular powers. About 1 A. M., a gentleman who was very sceptical as to Bishop's mind-reading pretensions was selected as the subject of the experiment. This gentleman was requested to select some word, and to do so he took up a book, when his eye fell on the word "Townsend," which he selected for the test. Bishop placed one of his hands on the gentleman's forehead, and almost immediately wrote the word correctly on a piece of paper, beginning with the last letter and spelling backwards. He was then securely blindfolded and the book handed to him, when he turned the leaves over rapidly till he came to the page from which the word had been taken, and then he put his pencil on the name. Almost immediately after performing these feats Bishop passed into a cataleptic trance. As he was known to be subject to attacks of this kind, and had even been charged with simulating them for the purpose of creating a mysterious effect, no great alarm was felt. In about fifteen minutes he recovered, joked about his seizure, and gave some further exhibitions of his powers, and at their close passed into a trance state, during which his body and limbs became perfectly rigid. He was placed in bed, and a physician, who had attended him previously, with an assistant, took charge of him. Several times during the night and morning Bishop recovered consciousness, but would soon lapse into a cataleptic rigor. At 8 A. M. one of the physicians decided that death was inevitable. Electricity and other means were now employed, but without effect, and at 12.10 P. M. he was pronounced dead, the cause being coma. The body was placed in a tight box and removed to an undertaker's. Bishop had at some time expressed a wish to have his brain examined after death. The consent of his friends present having been obtained, a necropsy was made at a quarter before four o'clock, scarcely more than three hours and a half after death. Nothing was found to account for his singular death. The brain was large for a man of his size. The mother of Bishop arrived on the following day, and immediately declared that her son had been