

A POINT IN THE PATHOGENY OF CARDIAC AFFECTIONS.—(POTAIN.)

At the meeting of the *Association Française pour l'Avancement des Sciences*, in August last, M. Potain read a paper upon "A Point in the Pathogeny of Cardiac Affections," and especially of the right heart. In this connection he cited those facts, some of which have been recorded in a thesis by one of his students, Dr. Mahot, upon pulsations of the liver in tricuspid insufficiency. He pointed out the influence of affections of the gastrohepatic apparatus, and particularly of acute affections of the biliary passages, upon the heart, and quoted M. Gangolphe's work upon the transient cardiac lesions which are met with in jaundice. Acute affections of the biliary passages produce transient dilatation of the right heart; chronic lesions give rise to a permanent dilatation. M. Potain pointed out the analogy which appears to exist between the mechanism of cardiac dilatations of gastrohepatic origin and that of hypertrophy in Bright's disease. These lesions (except in the case of tricuspid insufficiency) do not give rise to real *bruits de souffle*; but extra-cardiac bruits are often met with. Digitalis in such cases gives bad results. M. Potain concludes that certain dilatations of the right heart are due to gastric and hepatic affections.

M. Gubler said that his experience in this respect enabled him to confirm these views.

From *Le Progrès Médical*.

TREATMENT OF SCROFULOUS ULCERS BY THE SULPHIDE OF CARBON.

Dr. Obissier dresses scrofulous ulcers with a mixture of 16 grammes (240 grains) of sulphide of carbon; 40 grammes (600 grains) of iodine, and 4 drops of essence of peppermint. The addition of the iodine and of the essence of mint to the sulphide of carbon has the advantage of masking the odour, which would render its employment as a dressing impossible. Under the action of the sulphide of carbon, the ulcers heal very rapidly, and Dr. Obissier has already published a large number of observations favourable to this mode of treatment which may be applied to all scrofulides.—*Gaz. Med. Ital.*

From *Le Progrès Médical*.

ON A PERIOD OF ARREST IN THE COURSE OF NASOPHARYNGEAL POLYPI.

BY DR. LOUIS SAMONDÉS.

A discussion, which occurred in 1865 at the *Société de Chirurgie*, attracted the attention of the surgeons to an important peculiarity in the history of nasopharyngeal polypi, viz.: that these tumours, which constitute a disease of adolescence, often present an arrest in their growth when the persons affected by them approach adult age. It is this interesting point that Dr. Samondés, under the inspiration of Prof. Verneuil, has chosen as the subject of his inaugural thesis. He has gathered together a number of observations, which go to prove:—

1st. That if the patient is near adult age there is reason to hope for a period of arrest in the growth of the tumour.

2nd. That an operation practised at this age has large chances of being followed by a definitive success, either from the tumour not being reproduced after a radical ablation, or, the extirpation being only partial, from the remainder of the morbid mass persisting subsequently in a stationary condition and without repullulation.

3rd. That at 18 years the chances of cure are already numerous, and that they increase with the age.

EMPLOYMENT OF PHENICATED COLLODION.

Dr. Karl Frank very highly recommends phenicated collodion (collodion to which 10 p.c. of a solution of carbolic acid has been added), the employment of which has given him excellent results, in wounds, crushings, erysipelas, and burns. He has also successfully employed it in uniting by first intention the 3rd phalanx of the right index finger, which had been torn off by the bite of a horse, and which was suspended from the rest of the finger by a single strip of skin about one millimetre in breadth. In this case the wound was washed with cold carbolized water, the fragments accurately brought together, the finger covered with phenicated collodion, and the whole enveloped in cotton paper. At the end of four days union was complete, but the sensibility of the integuments of the finger only returned little by little.