

placed near the flesh for a short time, the rays acting through the clothing of the person exposed, and in fact, to a greater or less degree passing through everything, solids, liquids and gases, even through many inches of steel.

It is not affected by great extremes of heat and cold in respect to its radioactivity, but varies in the degree of its luminosity. It gives off but little light, its luminosity being largely due to the stimulation of the impurities in the radium by the powerful but invisible radium rays.—*The Americana*.

Motor Aphasia and Broca's Convolution.

G. Pieraccini (*Riv. Crit. di Clin. Med.*, Florence, 1907), after discussing Marie's recent dictum that motor aphasia is not caused by destruction of Broca's convolution, details the case of a man who received a blow from a hatchet on the head at the age of 47, and suffered from aphasia afterwards. The blow caused loss of consciousness; a depressed fracture of the skull was produced, running vertically upwards and a little forwards for 4 in. from just above and in front of the left ear. Several long fragments of bone that had lacerated the cortex were removed; the wound healed by first intention. This was in 1891; a few months later the patient exhibited a moderate amount of right facial paresis and a little weakness of the right arm and hand, and typical motor aphasia. Since that date the patient has been periodically examined again, and has shown continuous improvement in his pronunciation and vocabulary. Thus, in 1893 he had difficulty in counting aloud up to 10, and could talk but little; in 1895 he could count up to 100 and more with ease, and could express his ideas well, although his pronunciation of certain words was bad—probably for want of better education. A table of the patient's pronunciation of numerous words and of his answers to certain questions on various dates up to 1906 is given, and conveys a clear idea of the progress he made in his speech. He was at all times able to understand spoken words. Pieraccini argues that this case supports the older view, and that there is such a thing as motor aphasia due to injury of the posterior part of the third left frontal convolution.—*British Medical Journal*.

Anal Pruritus.

Of the lotions one of the best is the lactate of lead, highly recommended by Miles, of London. It can be easily prepared by mixing one drachm of liquor plumbi sub-acetatis with seven drachms of fresh milk. It forms a thick, creamy compound with which a piece of gauze or cotton can be saturated and placed in contact with the itching surface.—*Asman*.