

Translations.

DIGESTIVE PROPERTIES OF PANCREATINE.

Mrs. —, fifty-seven years of age, although of a good constitution, had been subject for a great many years to frequent attacks of erysipelas. The slightest cause was sufficient to bring on an attack. Various remedies, including the use of arsenic for more than a year, had given negative results. The condition of the patient was very miserable, for she was never certain, on retiring at night, that she would not awake in the morning with a face red, burning and swollen. It was remarked on several occasions that the attack, treated energetically at the start, by emetics and purgatives, was generally rendered milder and of less duration, and besides, that in the intervals the patient was troubled with pyrosis. We prescribed Dufresne's pills of pancreatine, four for a dose after each meal, without other treatment or change of diet. For five months, during which this treatment has been carefully followed, there has not been the slightest sign of erysipelas. Our patient has not enjoyed such good health for years. Recently an accident has confirmed, in a remarkable manner, the stability of the cure. From indigestion, the patient was attacked with vomiting and diarrhoea. Before the treatment with pancreatine, such an attack would certainly have been followed by facial erysipelas. On this occasion, not the faintest redness of the skin was seen.—*Dr. C. Girard in L'Union Medicale.*

CUTANEOUS ERUPTIONS IN THE COURSE OF SEPTICÆMIC SURGICAL AFFECTIONS.

Upon the whole, we may, with M. Verneuil and several other writers, lay down this almost absolute law: Whenever after a surgical operation or a traumatic lesion there appears an extensive scarlatinal rash, or a generalized scarlatiniform eruption, there is great need to fear pyæmia. Whenever after a chill, even though very slight, supervening on a wound or operation, the appearance of this eruption is found, we may affirm that purulent infection has occurred with sufficient certainty to enable us to pronounce a fatal prognosis.—*La France Medicale.*

THE BROMIDE OF LITHIUM.

The bromide of lithium, which was introduced into therapeutics a few years ago, is a very estimable remedy with sedative and lithonryptic properties.

Owing to its richness in bromine, which amounts to 91.95 per cent., it is much superior to all the other bromides, and the 8.05 parts of lithia per cent. which it contains, are capable of neutralizing a considerable quantity of uric acid, seeing that one part of lithia neutralizes four parts of uric acid.

By virtue of this double action, which has been demonstrated in the Paris hospitals and in private practice, the bromide of lithium is indifferently employed in cases of nerve disturbance or in manifestations of the uric acid diathesis. Experience has, in fact, demonstrated its favourable effects in epilepsy, chorea, insomnia, hypochondriasis, and in the various forms of the uric acid diathesis, such as nephritic colic, gout, and diabetes.

In those affections accompanied with pain, as gout and nephritic colic, the bromide of lithium would exercise its lithonryptic action, as well as act as a sedative and allay the sufferings of the patient, in a short time.

Hence it is believed that the bromide of lithium is as valuable a remedy as we possess in therapeutics, and we do not know how to recommend it adequately.—*La Andalusia Medica.*

ON THE THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT OF OIL OF LAMPREYS; PETROMYZON FLUVIATILIS.

Dr. Markonet has employed oil of lampreys in a large number of cases; this oil has the appearance of Provence oil, it is more fluid than cod-liver oil, has not so repulsive a flavour, and is better tolerated by the digestive organs. It promotes nutrition, having even a greater effect in this way than cod-liver oil. According to a quantitative analysis, it contains a little more iodine than the latter; which it might consequently take the place of it with advantage. The lampreys are captured in large numbers at the mouths of the rivers which empty into the Caspian Sea. Purified lamprey oil costs at Moscow eight times less than cod-liver oil.—*Lyon Medical.*