

Absorption.—Castellino and Cavazzani (*Gaz. degli Ospitali*) have sought to ascertain whether, and if so how, the process of absorption from the intestine is modified in association with altered physical and chemical conditions of the blood; secondly, they have sought to establish how such changes of the blood influence in the human subject the general metabolism of the body. The study is not as yet complete, but the authors have ascertained the following facts: In distinctly alkaline serum, the reticulum of the hyaloplasm of leucocytes undergoes stimulation, which causes increased irritability and more active vital manifestations in the protoplasm. In liquids poor in alkali the protoplasm appears torpid and slow in its reactions, but in these cases contact with alkaline serum speedily evokes increased activity. Contact of faintly alkaline serum with leucocytes in a medium favourable to their activity depresses their movements, and accelerates the processes of degeneration. Serum which is but faintly alkaline nearly always produces transparency of the protoplasm, and throws out the nucleus. From the above facts the authors argue, first, that alkalinization of the blood favours intestinal absorption; and, secondly, that as the passage of foods from the intestine through the lining mucous membrane is probably due in great measure to the activity of the cells lining the villi and to the leucocytes, alkalies would cause an increase in the rapidity of absorption by stimulating the activity of the protoplasm, and increasing its chemiotactic powers.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

THYROID THERAPY FOR PSORIASIS.—Struck by the remarkable improvement observed in the condition of the skin in cases of myædema treated by the administration of thyroid extract, Dr. Byron Bramwell, of Edinburgh, was led to try the same agent in the treatment of some

chronic and obstinate cases of psoriasis, with results that were at once surprising and gratifying, as detailed at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association. A preparation of thyroid gland was the only medicament given, so that the possibility of doubt was practically eliminated. In some cases the subjective improvement was immediate, and was soon followed by objective evidence of improvement. The inflammatory redness of the diseased areas diminished, and there was considerable desquamation. One patient was made worse; in two the treatment was followed by no benefit; and in one case a slight relapse took place. The question at once suggests itself that if this method of treatment prove ultimately successful in psoriasis, why should it not be applicable to other diseases of the skin as well.—*Medical News*.

ELECTRIC TREATMENT OF UTERINE FIBROMATA.—Bergonié and Boursier (*Arch. Clin. de Bordeaux*) give a summary of the results obtained by them in the treatment of 100 cases of uterine fibromata by monopolar positive electrolysis, according to the practice of Apostoli. They conclude: (1) That the treatment of uterine fibroids by this method is principally a palliative—efficacious in hæmorrhagic fibroids (ninety per cent.); (2) that it acts favourably on the general condition (seventy-nine per cent.); (3) that it often diminishes pain (fifty per cent.); (4) that as regards the size of the tumours, its action is rarely efficacious (nine to ten per cent.)—*British Medical Journal*.

Died.

AIKINS—At the residence of his father, Dr. W. T. Aikins, 278 Jarvis Street, Oct. 10th, of acute pleuro-pneumonia, Wil. im Heber Aikins, B.A., M.D., aged forty years.