

CANCER "CURES."—The announcement of an exposure by a committee of medical investigators of the Count Mattei cure for cancer is satisfactory. The faith in the alleged remedy was probably very shallow, and those who believed in it will be quite capable of disbelieving in the exposure. Evidence to those who believe in cancer "cures" by pretenders and dealers in secret remedies is very much thrown away. Even if one fraud is exposed, another will quickly take its place. The fresh spurt of energy in a newspaper announcement of a provincial remedy is probably to be explained on this principle. The public in these matters is willing to be deceived. It cannot await the slow development of regular medicine. The serious thing is that both in the Mattei business and in others medical men are involved whose professional qualification gives color to the pretension. It will be interesting to see how a certain journalist will take the Mattei exposure. The remedy was accorded a publicity by this gentleman to which, no doubt, it owed a certain amount of success. Credulity is not a very safe quality in a journalist, however well-meaning and benevolent; but the very least we can expect from him will be that he will give a cordial publicity to the exposure, exhibit some improvement in the critical faculty, and not lightly again lead the public into the indulgence of false hopes of impossible results from distilled water.—*London Lancet*.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NASAL DOUCHE.—Dr. Bloebaum (*Med. Neuigkeiten*) no longer uses the nasal douche in removing crusts from the nasal cavity. He simply twists a lön and thin roll of cotton on to a knitting needle, introduces it into the nose, and withdraws the needle, leaving the cotton in the nose. A second and third are introduced thus, until the entire cavity is filled. Then one may begin with the opposite side and do likewise. In the course of a quarter of an hour the mucous membrane begins to secrete profusely, and if the cotton is then removed it will be found that it is saturated with secretions and the crusts lie on the rolls of cotton, thus leaving a nicely cleaned cavity for the application of the remedies. He never employs any watery solutions, but salves, which are rubbed into the nasal

mucous membrane, or powders, which are insufflated.—*Lancet-Clinic*.

THE TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA.—Dr. Boardman Reed goes very carefully over the literature of this subject and concludes: (1) That water locally applied, either by wet packs or in the form of baths, after the Brand method, is the most efficient single remedy or therapeutic measure for acute pneumonia. (2) That either veratrum viride or aconite can accomplish more than any other single drug in the first stage, and that the same is true of digitalis in the second stage. (3) That a combination of one of these cardiac sedatives with opium and diaphoretics affords not only a safe but an eminently successful internal treatment for the first stage of acute pneumonia, being capable of aborting the disease when its administration is begun near the onset and is repeated at short intervals day and night. (4) That venesection, though a most efficient means of treating sthenic forms of pneumonia, and, judiciously employed, considerably more successful than any merely expectant method, is no longer an indispensable resource in managing the disease, since other remedies have been found to accomplish the same results more surely and pleasantly.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

THE TREATMENT OF ALOPECIA AREATA.—In a communication made to the Société de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*, No. 7, 1892), Raymond discusses some of the more recent methods of treatment employed for the cure of alopecia areata, and presents a method of his own which, it is claimed, shortens materially the time required to cure this often intractable malady. That form of the disease in which the loss of hair is confined to areas of moderate extent in the scalp and beard is regarded by the writer as quite distinct from that in which the hair fall is more or less general. As in many cases of the first variety a spontaneous cure not uncommonly occurs at the end of seven or eight months, methods of treatment which fail to bring about a return of the hair within a shorter period than this are regarded as useless. While admitting that the intra-dermic injections of solutions of sublimate, as practised by Moty,