

sules," which stain readily. With proper stains a filamentous process can be seen springing from these polar capsules. Furthermore, the spore contains a protoplasm not easily stained, which forms a mass, which passes out as a free ameba when the spore bursts.

The proliferation of the sporidia is accompanied by budding of the muscles in the invaded area, and a disappearance of newly formed muscle cells. At one period of the process the parasites have the appearance of epithelial cells. In the hog the tumors produced by the parasites do not attain a large size, but in the horse may become as large as the fist. The tumor grows at the expense of the newly-formed muscle tissue, which the author thinks is produced by a peculiar irritation set up by the parasite. The parasite consumes the new muscle cells, and takes their place in the tissues. The fact that there are undoubted parasitic tumors in which the epithelial cell is a parasite, makes it improper to regard an accumulation of epithelial cells in an abnormal situation as a criterion of cancer. The cancer parasite is probably allied to the sporozoa, and probably most akin to the group of *amebasporidia* established by Schneider.—*Univ. Med. Mag.*

"BLUE BLOODED ARISTOCRACY."—There are a great many expressions in our language, and in every language, that seem to have no meaning. One wonders why, generation after generation, people keep repeating them, everybody at the same time wondering how they came into existence. It has been the delight of antiquarians delving in the musty records of the past, to hunt out some custom or fact that throws light at once upon the life of the past and fixes in the minds of the present a luminous explanation of the origin of some philologic curiosity. Sometimes the explanation is not forthcoming, because, lying so near at hand, it cannot be found by antiquarians. There is one such expression that by its very name implies a physiologic or pathologic origin, and yet, so far as we know, has never been explained or sought to be explained as due to any physiologic cause. This phrase, "blue blood," as applied to aristocratic folk, seems a palpable absurdity, because, physiologically, of course, the constituents and color of the blood of aristocrats cannot differ much from that of working and plebeian people. How, then, did it come into use?

Every oculist of any alertness and closeness of observation-powers must have daily noticed, as school-imprisoned and behoused patients come into his office, the fact that in women, girls, and children, severe and long-continued eye-strain produces leanness and pallor of the temples, with the blue veins plainly visible at ten feet distance. Sometimes these blue lines of the temples—as indicative of eye-strain as those of the gums are

of lead-poisoning—curl down beneath the eye and along the cheek. Every oculist must have also noticed how soon after getting proper spectacles the temples fill out, the blue lines disappear, and the whole expression of the eyes and face changes. Pain, suffering, malnutrition, at once disappear. The appetite, especially for breakfast, long lost, returns, sleep is quiet and refreshing, and growth recommences. A tremendous difficulty has been overcome and life, as it were, is again resumed.

In the Middle Ages especially, but also in modern times, women, girls, and children of the upper classes have been housed more than the men and older boys. This housing necessitates continuous employment with books, sewing, or other ocular labor at near range. The ametropia that with out-of doors living can be borne by the compensatory powers of the organism, cannot be endured when there is added the extra burden (and, evolutionally, the abnormal function) of continuous accommodation or work at near range. Hence anæmia, the pallid skin, the "pinched eyes," the blue or the swollen veins of the temples, blue circles about the eyes, etc. Heredity of these abnormal eyes—a most common fact—coupled with the inherited subnormality of general nutrition that results both from the ametropia and the lack of physical exercise, does the rest of the work, and the daughters and wives of the castle-owners and of the rich are at once seen to be "blue-blooded." But the explanation shows the fact to be a sign of disease and a thing to be ashamed of, not, by any means, one to be proud of.—*Med. News.*

A NEW TREATMENT OF MAMMARY ABSCESS.—Tweedy adopts Weber's method of treating mammary abscess. An early and free incision is made in the breast, radiating from the nipple, and situated at the most dependent part of the abscess. The finger is then inserted into the wound, and the gland structure broken down. This manipulation, it is stated, will have no bad effect on the healthy tissue. By this process several new cavities will be found, and these, in turn, are to be opened by an incision similar to the first, and the whole thoroughly douched with some antiseptic solution. The membrane lining the several cavities is to be curetted, and the debris removed by a second douching. Strips of gauze sufficient to fill every interstice of the abscess are to be steeped in a one per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and inserted by means of a long sinus forceps and probe. A large flat sponge is then placed on the breast, and tightly bandaged thereto for twenty-four hours. After this period the dressings are removed, and without further irrigation the cavities are again packed, the sponge and bandage being reapplied as before. On the third day process is repeated. In the fourth dressing the gauze packing is dispensed with and the incisions are