

Hay fever naturally forms a subject of interest. Dunbar's serum has taken a prominent place in our therapy with by no means uniformly satisfactory results, though many cases are promptly and efficiently relieved, and it is also valuable as a prophylactic. Kyle advances the theory that in the altered chemistry of the secretions there is an explanation of many if not all cases of hay fever. According to him a local irritation is brought about in the nasal and other mucous membranes by chemical changes of the mucus-secreting glands, and that in all cases the predisposing condition is this altered secretion, the extraneous matter or pollen being only an associated factor.

By changing the reaction of the secretions, he claims to have been able to cure attacks either wholly or in part, and believes that 80 to 90% of cases can thus be relieved or cured. To Michaels, of Paris, belongs the credit of originating this theory, which, should subsequent investigation and experimentation prove to be correct, a very distinct advance in the etiology and treatment of hay fever will have been made.

Dr. Brunow reports an unusual case, viz., chancre of the inferior turbinate. Two cases where rhinotomy by the sublabial route was performed for absolute nasal insufficiency are reported by Delsaux, the results obtained being in every way satisfactory.

In a brief retrospect of this nature, it is of course impossible to record fully all that has been done in a year's work in the department of rhinology, though it is to be hoped that to some extent the progress made during the year 1904 has been demonstrated. W. H. J.

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### Society Proceedings.

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#### SOCIÉTÉ MÉDICALE DE MONTREAL.

*Meeting of February 28th, 1905.*

Dr. O. F. MERCIER, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. L. P. NORMAND, of Three Rivers, President of the Third Congress of French-speaking Physicians of North America, communicated a paper on three cases of hypertrophy of the spleen, preceding his report by a few remarks on the physiology and anatomy of this organ.

I. Case.—Male, aged 50, no trace of malarial infection, presenting an old standing hypertrophy of the spleen, which filled the entire left half of the abdomen, but caused no inconvenience other than its great weight. Cancerous degeneration abruptly set in, without apparent cause, and rapidly carried off the patient.

II.—In a two year old child (mentally weak), was found a very large spleen. After an attack of typhoid fever, hypertrophy completely dis-