

within an hour or two, because the second injection produces no rise, but even a fall of blood-pressure.

It will be gathered that pituitary extract should not be given for acromegaly or gigantism, just as thyroid extract must not be given for Graves' disease, or it may make matters worse, and cases are on record in which this has actually happened; on the other hand, there is no convincing clinical evidence that pituitary extract will cure acromegaly.

There is, however, a prospect of relief for sufferers from acromegaly and gigantism by operative interference. And finally, we have the hope set before us that pituitary extract may be the specific for infantilism and adiposity, and even add inches to the stature of our diminutive youths and maidens. If so, Mr. H. G. Wells' "Food of the Gods" is already on the market! For this purpose the anterior part of the gland will need to be used, whereas for the diuretic and vasoconstrictor effects the posterior lobe is required.

Extract of the posterior lobe is being tried in obstetrics and gynaecology as a substitute for ergot, its action on the musculature and blood-vessels of the uterus being very similar.

REFERENCES.

- OLIVER AND SCHÄFER.—*Journal of Physiology*, 1895, vol. xviii., p. 277.
PAULESCO.—"L'hypophyse du cerveau," Vigot Frères, Paris, 1908.
SCHÄFER.—"The Functions of the Pituitary Body," Croonian Lecture, Proc. Royal Soc., 1909, lxxxi, p. 442 (with bibliography).
CUSHING.—*Amer. Jour. Med. Sci.*, 1910, vol. cxxxix, p. 473.
EISELSBERG.—*Annals of Surgery*, July, 1910, p. 1.