

connection it would be interesting to ascertain what is the effect of thyroid extract on headache other than that of acromegaly; from the fact that it lowers external pressure it might be expected to relieve some forms of headache. In the "Report of the Clinical Society," of London, on "Myxoedema," occipital headache was present in a fifth of the cases. On the other hand, excessive doses of the extract give rise among other symptoms to headache.

At the present time, continues the author, the relation of changes in the pituitary gland to acromegaly cannot be considered as entirely understood or definitely settled; it is true that the change in the gland is generally regarded as primary, but it may be that they are both the manifestations of some primary change elsewhere, or, as the occasional association of acromegaly with some or in very rare cases with all the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre on the one hand, and the superficial resemblance to myxoedema, on the other, suggests, the symptoms of the disease may be due to some disturbance of a theoretical equilibrium which in health is maintained between the internal secretions of the thyroid and pituitary glands. In this state of the question the results of more extended therapeutical trial of thyroid extract, both alone and in combination with pituitary extract, might be of considerable value.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

THE VALUE OF OLIVE OIL IN THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

In the *Lancet* for November 27th, Mr. Owen F. Paget gives his experience with the employment of olive oil in a hundred cases of typhoid fever, which came under his observation during his residence in Fremantle, Western Australia. Many of the patients, he says, lived in tents and

were unable to obtain fresh milk, yet in spite of these disadvantages the percentage of death was *nil*. This, he thinks, is very remarkable, seeing that among those who were removed to the hospital, where they were properly attended to and received suitable nourishment, the percentage was as high as twenty in 1896, and eleven in 1897.

Mr. Owen attributes his success very largely to the use of salad oil. Nearly all typhoid-fever patients, he says, are suffering from constipation or diarrhoea when they first come under observation; during constipation the typhoid bacillus acquires its power of developing, and this constipation is followed by diarrhoea and a gradual solution of the faecal accumulations caused by the pouring out of mucus and other fluids from the intestine. These faecal solutions, being intensely irritating, help to inflame the already infected Peyer's patches and, in addition, give rise to violent peristalsis, preventing rest, which is so important to inflamed regions. Added to this there is the enormous drain of fluid from the intestinal mucous surface. Now, the fluid poured out is, of course, to a certain extent, reabsorbed, but not before it is saturated with ptomaines; this necessarily causes violent constitutional disturbances in the patient, such as high temperatures, cardiac paralysis, and intestinal paralysis with tympanites, exhaustion, delirium and insomnia (with its accompanying uses of depressing drugs), sapræmia, septicæmia, pyæmia, secondary infection of glands, abscesses in bones, and death. The problem, says the author, resolves itself into treating an inflamed and possibly ulcerated surface, and the same laws hold good here as in any other part of the body—namely, rest and protection from irritating substances and collection of discharges. As a proviso it is necessary to remember that the patient must not starve.

Mr. Owen thinks, therefore, that