

ointment he also found to be among the most useful of local remedies. In chronic cases the constant application of a strong solution of ichthyol is the best remedy, but iodine liniment is also valuable. In severe conditions linear scarification or light touches of the thermo-cautery he found often to give good results. In subacute cases he has sometimes used high-frequency currents and in chronic cases the Finsen light and the X rays with success. These agents are particularly useful in the later stages when there is thickening of the integument. Radium may be applied to limited areas for the same purpose.

THE ORIGIN OF SEX. By Professor Nussbaum, Bonn.

Professor Nussbaum, referring to the various experiments which have been made on the subject, emphasized the fact that what might be possible with plants and the lower forms of animal life could not be applied to the higher forms. The voluntary production of sex by means of external agencies has been conclusively proved for a large number of species of inferior organization. In vertebrates and in the case of some plants such agencies are not available. He referred to the more recent theories of Noll and Correns and also of von Hertwig, and remarked that several objections have been raised against attempting to apply them in all cases. The older statements as to the voluntary production of sex by bees and butterflies have been disproved. More worthy of notice are the observations of Wilson, Morgan, Meve and others on the differential cultivation of seminal threads, so that by fertilization of the egg variety of sex could be produced. With reference to the experiments of Oudemans, Kellog, and Meisenheimer, Professor Nussbaum gave the following explanation. In butterflies the abdomen of the insect as well as the sexual glands are not the same in the two sexes. the difference finding expression in the number of chromosomes. Internal influences determine the sex of the algae and moulds, but in infusoria, in the lower forms of crab, and also in rotatoria (according to the recent researches of Punnett and Whitney) such is not the case. Professor Nussbaum further said that the material which has come under his notice strengthens the opinion (also expressed by Maupas) that temperature exercises some influence, but his researches also indirectly suggest that the true cause of the production of males is diminished nourishment of a colony of parthenogenetic females.