

**GERHARDT'S PLAN OF EMPTYING A DISTENDED GALL-BLADDER CAUSED BY GASTRO-DUODENAL CATARRH.**—Dr. Forcheimer reported that on May 3rd a child 1½ years of age was brought to him, the mother stating that two days previously the child had vomited and had had loose bowels, and a slight fever. It then suddenly became very yellow. When seen by the speaker it was constipated. The liver dulness was slightly increased. In the fissure for the gall-bladder he found a small, smooth, round tumor. The diagnosis was readily made. There was stenosis of the ductus communis and distension of the gall-bladder with bile, caused by catarrh of the duodenum. He immediately adopted Gerhardt's plan of squeezing the bladder between the fingers, when he felt a slight gurgling, showing that the mucus at the extremity of the duct had given way. When brought back two days afterwards, jaundice had entirely disappeared. When excessive force has been used in this procedure the gall-bladder has been ruptured, causing peritonitis and death. Another plan sometimes successfully employed by Gerhardt is the use of the Faradic current, by which means the muscular tissue of the gall-bladder has been forced to contract and thus expel the contents of this viscus. Dr. Whittaker remarked that in order to avoid the danger of rupture referred to by the previous speaker, the gall-bladder had been frequently tapped from time to time, and the fluid withdrawn without any unpleasant symptoms.—*Cincinnati Academy of Medicine.*

**TREPHINING IN EPILEPSY.**—(*Nashville Journ. Med. and Surg.*, Feb. 1876) Professor W. T. Briggs reports the case of a man, aged 30, who had been subject to epilepsy for many years, the disease following a fall upon the head. An old scar was found in the scalp about the middle of the right parietal bone, with a slight depression. A disk of bone was removed, having a small exostosis on its inner surface. At the end of six weeks he had entirely recovered from the operation. All his nervous symptoms had disappeared, and there had been no return of the convulsions which formerly had occurred weekly.

**THE TREATMENT OF TAPEWORM.**—A return of the quantity of the several drugs in most general use for the treatment of tapeworm in the public hospitals of Paris during the last ten years has been made by the Director of the Central Pharmacy. A comparison of the relative quantities consumed during the first and second halves of the decennium, supplies an interesting indication of the professional verdict as to their relative value. The average quantity of kousso consumed annually was more than twice as great during the four years since 1870 as during the six years before. The amount of pumpkin-seeds employed has not quite doubled; that of pomegranate-bark has remained almost stationary; and that of the male-fern has more than doubled. Kousso and male-fern thus appear to be the remedies on which Parisian experience shows most reliance can be placed. M. Colin, however, in a recent paper on "Tania in the French army," advocates very strongly the use of pomegranate-bark. He asserts that when the precaution was taken never to administer a purgative before the vermifuge, the head of the worm was expelled, in three cases out of four, by a single dose. A purgative given before simply tears away the segments, leaving the head attached, and the head is then undisturbed by the special medicine.—*Lancet.*

**GALLIC ACID IN ALBUMINURIA.**—Dr. J. T. Jamieson (*American Practitioner*) records two cases of albuminuria, as a sequel to scarlet fever, successfully treated by gallic acid. He gave teaspoonful doses of the saturated solution every two hours. He thinks that the gallic acid is carried unchanged to the congested and inflamed capillaries of the secernent portion of the kidneys, acts as an astringent and tonic to them, and promotes their contraction, thus arresting the exudation of the red blood corpuscles and promoting the normal secretion of urine. He has seen no bad effects arise from the free administration of the acid. It does not disturb the stomach or interfere with the appetite or digestion; but it does tend to produce constipation, so that the occasional use of a laxative is rendered necessary.—*Edin. Med. Journal.*