

classified all the cases of sarcoma of the muscles occurring at his clinic, and found that at least one-half of them were true syphilomata which promptly responded to specific treatment.

Tuberculous tumors—tuberculomata, the author calls them—not infrequently have given rise to errors of diagnosis, and it should be remembered that masses of pure tubercle may exist for long periods in the tongue, breast, and larynx without going on to ulceration. Of course, in the case of actinomycosis mistakes are not uncommon, since the disease has been known only for the last ten years.

To avoid these errors of diagnosis, it is plainly our duty to make a thorough microscopical examination of the growth before a radical operation is undertaken. For this purpose it may be sufficient to remove repeatedly superficial portions of the tumor, but if the results prove negative, it may be necessary to perform exploratory operation of magnitude, even laparotomy, laryngotomy, trephining.

In doubtful cases where the microscopical examination shows only granulation tissue and spindle cells, Prof. Esmarch recommends an energetic and long continued anti-syphilitic treatment.

These views of the distinguished author merit serious attention. There can be no doubt that in the case of tumors a positive diagnosis is frequently not made until after their removal, and cases are probably not rare in which a microscopical examination of deeper sections of the growth than have heretofore seemed necessary might have prevented dangerous and disfiguring operations.—*Intern. Jour. of Surg.*

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

At a meeting of the French Academy of Medicine, Dr. Germain Sée read a very interesting paper on "How Iodide of Potassium acted on the Heart." He commenced by saying that although ten years had elapsed since he introduced into medical practice the treatment of asthmatic and cardiac affections by iodide of potassium, yet nobody has ever inquired how it acted in such cases. All the actions of the two salts were not the same; that of potassium excited the heart and the vaso-constrictor nerves, and consequently raised the pressure of the blood, while the iodide of sodium did not do this. Injections of both salts into dogs were made, and the blood pressure in the femoral and carotid arteries recorded. The injection was made into the saphena vein. With the iodide of potassium the blood pressure arose immediately several centimetres and remained stationary for a considerable time. At the end of an hour a gradual descent took place. The vaso-constriction is to be attributed to the potassium, and the vaso-dilatation to the iodine. Iodine usually provokes a congestive condition of the bronchial mucous membrane, this being

due to the vaso-dilatation of the vessels. The first and principal of these therapeutic congestions is that which occurs in the respiratory organs, producing a veritable hypersecretion. Thus it results that the viscous and adherent exudation of mucus which characterizes the troublesome expectoration of asthmatics is softened and replaced by a liquid secretion, and consequently the air penetrates more freely and the dyspnoea ceases as soon as the iodine commences to act. The cardiac organ is materially strengthened, the circulation of the coronary arteries receives a considerable impulse as well as in the whole arterial system, as a result of its action on the nervo-muscular system and the myocardia in particular. The phenomena due to the iodine soon appear, in which are manifested the general vaso-dilatation, and, as a consequence, the heart, in order to propel the blood through its own arteries and into its own tissues, is no longer obliged to furnish the same amount of work as in the former state, as the tonicity of the arteries, the natural obstacle, is modified. Hence the organ, far from being depressed and weakened, beats with renewed energy and strength, and the sphygmograph indicates a full and strong pulse. For a long time Dr. Germain Sée has recognized the utility of iodine in several heart affections, and only in cases where it determined hemorrhage or gastric troubles did he refrain from prescribing it. When the dyspnoea is pulmonary from venous congestion, or oedema, iodide of potassium is given with best advantage. The cardiac affections which are mostly benefited by this treatment are adiposis, fatty degeneration, weakened heart, cardialgia, nervous organic irregularity of the heart. As to the aneurism of the aorta, iodide of potassium is the only remedy that gives real satisfaction. In conclusion the author said iodide of potassium was the true cardiac agent. Far from being a depressor, it was particularly useful in mitral lesions with debility. It raises the energy of the heart and the vascular pressure. Then, in dilating the arteries, the flow of blood is facilitated and the organ recovers its contractile powers.—*Medical Press and Circular*, October 23, 1889.

EXTENSIVE BURN OF THE LEG TREATED BY GRAFTING WITH THE SKIN OF A DOG.

Mr. Alexander Miles, at a meeting of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society, on December 4, 1889, showed a case which may prove of interest from two points of view: on the one hand, because of the extreme frequency with which such cases are met in practice; and, on the other hand, in view of the somewhat unusual means adopted for the relief of the patient. The patient suffered from an extensive ulcer on his left leg, extending from the middle