

AN EPITOME OF CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE.

Infection by the *Trichina Spiralis*. Askanazy (*Centralbl. f. Bakt.*, Bd. xv., No. 7) observes that two questions await solution in regard to the process of infection by the trichina spiralis: (1) how do the embryos which, according to the general view, are deposited only in the lumen of the bowel, pass through its wall? (2) how do they reach the striated muscles? In the belief that an examination of the bowel wall in cases of trichinosis would assist in the decision of both questions, Askanazy infected rabbits with the parasite; in seven to ten days the intestines were removed and placed for fixation in Flemming's fluid. Pieces were embedded in the celloidin, cut, and stained with safranin. The following facts were established: 1. The female parasite penetrates into the villi and mucous membrane generally, not deeper, however, than the muscularis mucosæ, and lies in that membrane or in a chyle vessel. 2. None of the specimens showed embryos lying free in the tissues of the intestinal wall or in its blood vessels. 3. Embryoes were found in the lumen of the chyle vessel of a villus. In one case a parasite filled with embryos projected into the chyle vessel which also contained them, thus rendering it very probable that they had been deposited in the vessel. The investigation would appear to show that the young trichinæ are deposited in the lymphatics and are carried away by the lymph stream. The discovery of embryos in the mesenteric glands (Virchow, Gerlach) is in accord with this opinion. The following considerations are against the old view that the embryos are deposited in the lumen of the bowel and subsequently bore their way through its wall: 1. The uncertainty with which the embryos are found in the bowel lumen, as shown by a review of the literature on trichinosis. 2. The author's examination of a great number of fresh specimens of intestinal mucus failed to show a single free embryo even when the female trichinæ were filled with young. 3. Embryoes were found only twice in the bowel lumen

in a large number of sections, whilst the adult parasites were plentiful there. 4. As the parasite deposits a large number of eggs, embryos should be numerous in the bowel contents if the deposit took place in the lumen. Against the boring theory is the fact that nobody has yet seen an embryo lying free in the bowel wall. The rare occurrence of young parasites in the lymphatics in these sections is explained by the author on the theory that they had been rapidly carried away by the lymph stream.—*British Medical Journal*.

Treatment of Peripheral Neuritis.—Leyden (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, No. 20, 1894) discusses the treatment of multiple neuritis. He considers that in the case of neuritis following acute specific diseases, care during convalescence as to nourishment, rest in bed, and avoidance of over-exertion contribute to prevent its occurrence. "Etiological treatment" (removal of the cause) in neuritis due to alcohol or lead, and treatment of the primary malady, as in diabetes, is of the first importance. There is no specific remedy for multiple neuritis, and treatment by drugs does not play a very important part. Owing to the fact that rheumatism is not infrequently an element in the etiology, salicylate of sodium and other anti-rheumatic drugs have been used without producing any good results in the majority of cases. Iodide of potassium was of use only now and then, and mercury was of doubtful value. Antipyrin, phenacetin, exalgin, euphrobia, and methylene blue were sometimes of use for the relief of pain, but it was often necessary to resort to morphine, chloral. sulphonal, etc. Strychnine, formerly much used, but lately fallen into the background, deserved to be tried; by increasing the excitability of the affected muscles, it favored the return to normal function and nutrition. It ought especially to be resorted to in progressive cases in which the respiratory movements were threatened. Leyden prefers to use it as a subcutaneous injection, gr. 1-10 to gr. 1-20 twice daily. Massage and baths were valuable auxiliaries which were indicated, especially the latter, in the later stages of the disease. General hygienic treatment was of much importance. Rest—as a rule rest in bed—was of the first importance in the early stage; in the later stage, feeding. Finally, in the latest stages of all, moral suasion, rousing