

The question is raised whether a number of attacks of vertigo in old people, diagnosed as "stomach vertigo," are not really instances of cerebellar hæmorrhage. The treatment, of course, is the same as for cerebral apoplexy.

Action of Drugs on the Skin.

Drugs acting on the skin and mucous membranes, mainly when externally applied, are the subject of chapter XXI of the special article *Journal A. M. A.*, May 19. After some general remarks as to the points of application of counterirritants, and on the stimulating action of baths, saline and others, the subject of rubefacients is taken up. Alcohol is first considered and a caution is given against any employment of wood alcohol which may be dangerous, even if used only externally. The popular preparations of hamamelis, arnica, etc., are mentioned as being effective mainly through the alcohol they contain, and soap liniment is also referred to in this connection. The use of chloroform and its action as a rubefacient is next considered, and after it the irritant volatile oils, capsicum, mustard, etc., and their official preparations. The use of heat, by means of poultices and the substances employed are next described and a word is given regarding the utility of formic acid as a rubefacient. The concluding paragraphs are devoted to the rubefacient action of iodine and the saponified petrolatum

of the National Formulary is mentioned as likely to replace the other preparations as a medium for its external application.

Tuberculous Pleurisy.

Following out his studies of the sero-prognosis of other disorders, P. Courmont, Lyons, France (*Journal A. M. A.*, May 19) has investigated the agglutination reactions of the blood serum and of the pleural serosity in tuberculous pleurisy. He finds that the prognosis of tuberculous pleurisy with effusion is favourable according to the intensity of the agglutinating power of the pleural liquid, and grows worse with the diminution or absence of this reaction, which increases as recovery progresses and diminishes in fatal cases as death approaches. His conclusions are given, in substance as follows: 1. The mortality is about 25 per cent. in cases with agglutinating power of the pleural effusion, and about 75 per cent. in those in which this is absent. 2. In patients with agglutinating effusion the ratio of recoveries is large in proportion as the agglutinating power is high. 3. One can see the agglutinating power increase as the case progresses toward recovery, and *vice versa*. 4. These facts support what has been held concerning typhoid fever, viz., that the agglutinating reaction is a reaction of defense, or at least goes parallel with the reaction of resistance of the organism. It is