Pigmentation in Addison's Disease.

[Raymond: *Arch. de Physiol.*, July, 1892.]

The author takes for the subject of his study a case of melanodermia, occurring in the course of a leukæmic lymphadenosis. All of the symptoms of Addison's disease were present, although there was neither tuberclosis nor any other affection of the adrenals found. Mr. Raymond arrives at the following conclusions:

(1) Abnormal pigmentations result from disordered innervations.

(2) Pigment is carried to epidermal cells by migratory corpuscles which have relations with blood vessels.

(3) Epithelial cells have not the power in themselves of producing pigment, but there are present in the skin cells whose function is to elaborate pigment and carry it to the epidermis.

(4) These cells are in the lower animals immediately governed by the nervous system, and it is legitimate to compare them with those found in men, and to conclude that the latter are also under nerve governance.

(5) Accepting this hypothesis, the pigmentation of "bronze disease" would result from a disturbance in normal pigment formation, caused by irritation of the abdominal sympathetic, which reacts reflexly upon the centre or centres supposed to preside over that process.—*Rev. Internat. de Bibliog. Med.*

Excretion of Bacteria by the Animal Organism.

[Perince and Scagliosi: *Deutsch Med Worchensch.*, Aug. 25, 1892.]

The staphylococcus aureus, bacillus subtilis, bacillus pyocyaneus, and the micrococcus prodigiosus, when injected into an animal, are generally gotten rid of through the bile and urine. Occasionally they make their way out through the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth, trachea, stomach, or vagina, or in the milk, semen, or serous exudates. The excretion of pathogenic bacteria begins from four to six hours after their entrance into the organism, and lasts so long as the animal lives; whilst in the case of non-pathogenic forms, it does not commence till from twenty-four to forty-eight hours after injection. Anthrax bacilli and bacillus pyocyaneus preserve their virulence after being cast out. Both pathogenic and non-pathogenic organs give rise to an hyperæmia of the kidneys, with extravasation of blood into the tubules and degeneration of the living epithelium. Cultures can be made from the different organs of the body before it is possible to demonstrate the microbes in the blood. The authors present the following explanation of this fact: that many of the bacteria are destroyed in the blood after inoculation; those that escape lodge in the different organs, multiply, and keep reinoculating the blood, which finally loses its bactericidal properties and allows their circulation.—*Rev. Internat. de Bibliog. Med.*