

tension is the rule in heart and kidney affections and chronic bronchitis, less marked in neuralgia and neuroses, and medium in malaria. Rest in bed seems to reduce the tension, as also a milk diet; steam baths in nephritis and venesection also have a transient action. Adrenalin and saline infusion raise the tension. Further research on twenty-eight persons demonstrated that injection of tuberculosis toxin materially reduces the tension.

Inconstancy of Salicylic Medication in Articular Rheumatism.

—A. Cerioli (*Gazzetta degli Ospedali*, Milan) remarks that the curative action of the salicylates is in direct proportion to the spontaneous defence of the organism, reinforcing it but not able to cure without the co-operation of the organism. He quotes Maragliano to the effect that statistics show that the course of articular rheumatism has not been shortened since the advent of salicylic medication, to which he does not ascribe much therapeutic importance. Cerioli urges that the phases of the disease should be watched and the salicylates be given with discretion to aid nature, not blindly and insistently, in which case they do more harm than good.

Prognostic Importance of Phosphates in Urine in Pneumonia.

—F. Sicuriani (*Gazzetta degli Ospedali*, Milan) concludes from his research on twenty-five patients with pneumonia that the alkaline phosphates vanish from the urine during the course of pneumonia. Their reappearance in the urine is the precursor of the crisis and a sign of good omen.

Operation for Umbilical Hernia.—A. Dal Vesco (*Gazzetta degli Ospedali*, Milan) makes a short incision below the hernia and works a gauze compress between the viscera and the abdominal wall. He then passes a stout thread through the lips of the incision, over the gauze, fastened on one side by a roll of gauze, and held on the other by hemostatic forceps. He then carries the incision farther up, working the gauze along and introducing another suture, continuing this until he has the hernia well under control, the viscera held in place by the gauze spread out over them, reinforced by the suture threads passed over across it. After taking care of the hernia as usual, he completes the operation by tightening the suture threads, thus drawing the lips of the incision together, and then pulling out the gauze, concluding by fastening the ends of the threads over rolls of gauze and suturing the skin. The recuperating power of the tissues of infants insures rapid repair, while the simplicity and security of this operation commend it for general adoption, he thinks. The entire procedure is complete in less than twenty minutes, even in extensive cases.