

neuropathic and autotoxic origin the symptoms returned or increased in intensity. When they have the opportunity of changing their abode for a time and avoiding crowded places, the skin lesions become milder or disappear. In large towns or in places where there is much bustle the symptoms return. Among the troops in the field, on the other hand, many who had previously suffered from urticaria, eczema, or pruriginous lesions, when forced to give up their usual occupations and live a life of strenuous exertion in the open air, found that the disease became milder or disappeared, without change of diet or local treatment. In some cases, however, a prolonged period of service at the front caused the outbreak of pruritus, urticaria, or populo-vesicular eczema. These observations at first sight seem to be contradictory, but Brocq holds that in the majority of cases they are not so, because the patients have been submitted to altogether different conditions. The change in the mode of life, which in some men has had a favorable influence, has been prejudicial in others who have been exposed to excessive fatigue or violent emotions. Brocq calls special attention to the increased prevalence and severity of psoriasis among soldiers at the front, especially those in the trenches. He thinks the two chief causes of the "epidemic" are the almost exclusively flesh diet and nervous shock. Similar phenomena have been observed in peace times after great emotional disturbances of severe injury. Brocq also notes the occurrence of a number of cases of dermo-epidermitis in fistulous attacks in men who have been long under surgical treatment for bone injuries; in these cases a peculiar dermatosis developed around the wound.—*British Medical Journal*.

BLOOD PRESSURE IN PREGNANCY.

From a study of 5,000 consecutive cases in the pregnancy clinic of the Boston Lying-in Hospital, F. C. Irving, Boston (*Journal A. M. A.*, March 25, 1916), has endeavored to ascertain: (1) the normal range of blood pressure in pregnancy; (2) the significance of low blood pressure; (3) the significance of high blood pressure, particularly as regards the toxemias of pregnancy, and (4) to state certain results obtained in the prevention of eclampsia by the appropriate treatment of these toxemias. From this study, he deduces conclusions substantailly as follows: In 80 per cent. of pregnant women the blood pressure ranges from 100 to 130, and in 9 per cent. the blood pressure may be below 100 once or more. When below 90, it does not mean that the patient will have shock unaccompanied by hemorrhage of confinement. In 11