

with the semen and once with the testicular substance. All the rabbits remained healthy. Of three injections one gave a positive result. Examination of the young of tuberculous female guinea pigs gave only one positive result. It appears, therefore, that semen may contain virulent tubercle bacilli, and that transmission of tubercle from mother to child is not the general rule.—*Med. Times and Hospital Gazette*.

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#### LARGE DOSES OF ETHER IN THE TREATMENT OF URÆMIC DYSPNŒA.

—After all that has been said of the injurious action of ether on the kidneys, it is interesting to learn that M. Lemoine and M. Gallois, in a communication made by the Société de biologie, an abstract of which appeared in the *Journal des praticiens* for July 3rd, recommend its use in large doses in the treatment of various forms of nephritis, especially as a powerful means of mitigating and even curing dyspnœa due to uræmia. The authors state that one of them has employed this treatment for nearly ten years, and has succeeded in arresting with it the gravest forms of uræmic respiratory disturbances, provided there was no actual renal lesion. It may be presumed that by this the authors mean no advanced lesion, for they go on to say that uræmia due to acute nephritis, to acute renal congestion, to renal congestion occurring in the course of sclerotic nephritis, or to the infectious forms of nephritis, stands the greatest chance of being cured by means of the ether treatment. They aver that it is only the uræmia depending on slow disorganization of the kidney by arteriosclerosis that does not yield to this treatment, although the comatose and convulsive forms are not readily affected by it. The treatment consists in giving, every half-hour or every hour, according to the severity of the case, two or three teaspoonfuls of ether in a little sweetened water. It is better, the authors say, to give part of the ether subcutaneously; for example, to give a subcutaneous injection of two or three cubic centimetres of ether every three hours instead of the doses then due by the mouth. They say that they have given to some patients more than three hundred cubic centimetres without producing the least untoward effect, even drunkenness, but it does not appear from the abstract into how many doses this amount was divided or whether it was given hypodermically or by the mouth. M. Lemoine and M. Gallois state that the ether occasions an abundant diuresis, improves the pulse, and relieves the respiratory spasm. They regard its employment as worthy to be classed with that of blood-letting so far as the result is concerned.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*