

7. If croup were identical with diphtheria, it seems to me that the operation of tracheotomy would rarely succeed; whereas it is often successful when false membrane has blocked up the tracheal tube, and has been removed from time to time after the operation.

CEREBRAL SYPHILIS.—Dr. L. E. Atkinson, of Baltimore, relates (*Virginia Medical Monthly*, Dec., 1879,) three interesting cases of cerebral disease of syphilitic origin. We have space for his conclusions only: It will be universally recognized that not one of the symptoms of brain disease, observed in these patients, presented a feature which could, in any special sense, be termed syphilitic, which could not, equally well, be produced by a non-syphilitic malady. At the same time, they show that widely different morbid conditions may arise from the same source, and that this source, probably more than any other in the pathology of these affections, is within the influence of our art. And it daily happens that their true nature remains unrecognized, and patients drift into suffering, helplessness, imbecility and death, when the timely and judicious administration of mercury and potassium, or sodium iodide, could have saved them to life and usefulness. And let it not be forgotten, that if we are to cure these patients, it must be while the *specific* processes are developing or in full activity—while the membrane is hyperæmic and beginning to thicken, the gumma forming, the artery narrowing—and not after the essential parts have been destroyed or crowded out by the unwelcome stranger. Usually, it is not difficult to recognize the presence of syphilis in these stages, in view of the curious combinations of symptoms displayed; and it is incumbent upon us not to be unmindful of the possibility of a syphilitic origin of any given case, so that timely advantage of a proper diagnosis may be taken. The treatment of cerebral syphilis, then, consists in the treatment of processes essentially syphilitic; and it must be kept in mind, that, apart from these, the results of syphilitic disease of the brain are identical with those of various other affections—they are the indelible traces of a battle that has, may be, long since been fought.—*Cin. Med. News*.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS VIVISECTOR.—Bologna has erected to the memory of the illustrious Galvani, the great discoverer of animal electricity, a monument in which he appears in the act of touching with two different metals the lumbar nerves of a vivisected frog. It will be remembered that it was accidentally, and in the course of a series of vivisections of frogs conducted for quite another purpose, that Galvani observed accidentally the twitching of the muscles of the limb of the frog as it swung backward and forward; and the bare sciatic nerve touching the metal, the first inkling came to him of the discovery of the form of electricity which is

known by his name, and out of which has sprung those great applications of electricity to industry and to science, such as the electric telegraph, with all the other applications of electricity to the purposes of life. The statue, which was publicly unveiled on Sunday in Bologna, stands as a living testimony to the truth which the Commissioners on the subject of the experiments on animals affirmed in their Parliamentary report, that vivisection is necessary, not only for the purpose of the immediate investigation of palpable problems in life, but also for the mere purpose of gaining new knowledge; for it was in the course of such an investigation that this illustrious discoverer first hit upon the clue which has led to perhaps the grandest series of researches and the most valuable results ever attained by any one scientific research.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

M. PAUL BERT'S NEW METHOD OF ANÆSTHESIA.—M. Paul Bert's new method for producing anæsthesia—nitrous oxide used under pressure—has been introduced into the Paris hospitals. Last week, M. Léon Labbé performed seven surgical operations, of which the duration varied from five to thirty-two minutes, in the moveable chamber put up at the Lariboisière Hospital by Dr. Fontaine for the surgical and medical employment of compressed air. As in the operations already performed at the medico-pneumatic establishment in the Rue Chateaudun by M. Péan, the success of this new anæsthetic method was complete. On the 29th ult., M. Labbé removed a cancerous breast, the operation lasting for one hour and four minutes; this is the greatest success recorded up to the present time. Some days since, the same surgeon performed an operation in a private house into which the moveable chamber had been taken, removing a tumour of the breast which had grown again after having been operated on twice under chloroform. The patient had on both occasions suffered for forty-eight hours from the effects of the anæsthetic employed. On this occasion, however, there was no such inconvenience. Consciousness returned quickly, and there were no consecutive ill effects. MM. Labbé and Péan will continue to operate in M. Fontaine's moveable chamber at the Lariboisière and St. Louis Hospital.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

WORK AND PLAY.—A recent writer has declared that there is no just discrimination between work and play except that of sentiment only. If life pursued its even tenor, there could be no question as to recreation after labor; the two would be identical. This, it is claimed, was true of that brilliant era of classic Greece, when man attained so nearly to the ideal, both of mind and body. In the occupation of the joyous Grecian there was no such thing as work or play, but only life.