

laryngeal spasm. Still less is this so with dentition (even when delayed and perverted by rickets). Among 70,000 children seen during eleven years, Comby never saw convulsions of purely dental origin, and never had occasion to lance the gums. Craniotabes, sometimes assumed as a cause of gastric spasm, if looked for, is found with "extraordinary frequency," and in cases where there has never been any convulsion or glottic spasm. The bond that unites the two morbid states (rickets and convulsions) is dyspepsia (dilatation of the stomach, diarrhoea, constipation, etc.) with auto-intoxication, from which arise all these nervous disorders, and in great part even rickets itself.—*British Medical Journal*.

In the Treatment of Pleural Effusion.—

Ségalea (*La Médecine Moderne*, 1894, No. 101, p. 1580) has employed with success topical applications of guaiacol in the following formula :

R Guaiacol ℞ xxxvi
Glycerin ℥
Tincture of iodine aa fʒss. M.

The applications are made by means of a brush to the entire posterior aspect of the chest, which is then covered with cotton and an impermeable dressing and a bandage. In a case of anasarca, with anuria, in the sequence of scarlatina, in which other measures had failed, applications of the following combinations were soon followed by relief :

R Guaiacol ℞ xvi.
Glycerin fʒss. M.
—E.v.

Deaf-Mutism.—Sigmund Szemes (*Internat. klin. Rundschau*) gives some statistics on this subject, after an examination of 124 deaf and dumb scholars whom he had seen during 1891-92. In 27 of these the etiology was unknown, but of the remaining 97, 42 were congenital and 55 acquired cases. The causes of the acquired deaf-dumbness are given, and include contagious and nervous diseases. Scarlet fever, measles and smallpox are examples of the former ; and convulsions, meningitis and encephalitis of the latter class. Rickets, erysipelas, otorrhoea, falls and concussions of the brain are also mentioned as causes. With reference to the question of birth, it was found that

twenty-two were first-born children. In four cases the scholars had brothers and sisters who were deaf and dumb ; of these, one boy and one girl had one, and another boy and girl had two brothers and sisters thus affected. On analyzing the cases, the author finds that deaf-dumbness is extremely seldom found when there is only one child in the family, and that it is most frequently found in first-born children. As to the employment of the parents, most of them were civil officials and country people, while a few were artisans, such as joiners, shoemakers, tailors, barbers, and so on. In each case not only did the author examine the ears with a speculum, but he tested them by other means, as, for instance, Politzer's aecometer, high and low pitched tuning-forks, speaking directly into the ear, and clapping the hands close to the ear. Eczema of the auricle, wax in the ear, foreign bodies, otorrhoea, polypus, atrophy and cicatrices of the tympanic membrane were the chief abnormal conditions found.—*British Medical Journal*.

Arthritis Complicating Acute Pneumonia.

—Meunier, of Hanot's Clinic (*Arch. Gén. de Méd.*), reports the following case in a man aged sixty : On the fourth day of the disease his knee became swollen and painful. On admission on the twentieth day he still had slight signs of the past pneumonia. The swollen joint was punctured with a fine needle, and a dirty yellowish liquid obtained. This liquid, examined bacteriologically, showed not only the pneumococcus, but also the streptococcus. The joint was laid open by an incision on either side, washed out, and scraped. Notwithstanding this the patient continued to lose ground. Amputation was recommended but declined by the patient, who then left the hospital. A mouse inoculated with a drop of the fluid from the joint soon died of a pneumococcus infection. Bouillon was also inoculated, and after the pneumococcus had perished the streptococcus was found. The author then refers to the recorded cases of this complication of acute pneumonia. A mono-arthritis is the most common, and the shoulder and knee joints are most often affected. Œdema over the joint is frequent. The lesions are strictly limited to the joint, and the prognosis, after incision and washing out, is favorable, if it be a pure pneumococcus infection. But it is also