

The Nephro-Toxic Action of Flesh-Meat.

Linossier has recently reported to the Académie de Médecine de Paris some interesting experiments with regard to the nephro-toxic action of various meats. By subcutaneous injection of an aqueous extract of hashed meat he has been able to produce albuminuria in rabbits and guinea-pigs. The minimum dose necessary to cause this condition is very variable even when the same kind of meat is used to prepare the extract, a fact which must be attributed as much to a difference in the renal resistance of various animals as to variations in the toxicity of the meat. Albuminuria appears very quickly after the injection, and only lasts a few hours. It is impossible to cause a typical epithelial nephritis or a permanent albuminuria, even with repeated injections, the animal always dying with marked symptoms of anaphylaxis before such a condition is reached. After contact with natural or artificial gastric juice for two hours the nephro-toxic action of the meat extracts is destroyed, but contact with alkaline solutions does not produce this effect. It would therefore seem that the action of the fluid extract is not due to the extractives contained in the meat, since these are unaffected by gastric juice, but to an inherent property of the albuminous material itself. It is probable that man acquires toleration to the toxic action of meat, but this does not mean that heavy meals can be habitually indulged in with impunity. The accidental and excessive use of meat by a vegetarian would probably be productive of harm, but it is fair to suppose that regular and properly graduated meat diet would be beneficial to a nephritic. --*The Hospital*.

Von Pirquet's Reaction in Lupus.

This reaction has not proved very satisfactory in the diagnosis of visceral tuberculosis. G. Define (*Giorn. Internaz. d. Sci. Med.*), has tried it in a number of chronic skin diseases and finds it more satisfactory. The reaction was positive in all of 50 patients with lupus; in 1 of cutaneous tuberculoma, 1 of erythema iris, 1 of psoriasis, 1 of vitiligo, and 3 out of 23 cases of syphilis. If the positive reaction is mild, it takes the form of a papule appearing in twenty-four to thirty-six hours and vanishing after ten or twelve days. When it is more marked there is oedema round the papule, at a maximum on the second or third day, and the papule disappears in fifteen or twenty days. When the reaction is severe a phlyctenule appears, rupturing in a few