

grains a day, became dull, confused and unable to collect his thoughts, had headache and roaring in the ears. His conversation was rational, and all the functions in the best of order, and the appetite was good. The face somewhat bloated. The iodide was at once stopped, but during the night palpitation of the heart came on attended with difficult breathing. In two days the symptoms had all subsided. At the completion of the course of treatment most of the patients left the hospital presenting a healthy appearance. In two cases the bodily weight was unchanged; in twenty-eight cases it had increased from three to seven thousand grains, and in some of the cured cases there had been a loss of from a hundred and fifty to five thousand grains. A decrease in fatty and glandular tissues could not be established. In the only female patient subjected to three large doses, there appeared rather to be an increase in the size of the mammæ. The author concludes, from all these observations, that we possess in the iodide of potassium a drug which, if given in large quantities, will cure an outbreak of psoriasis with comparative safety, and that we possess no other drug which will effect a cure in so short a time, arsenic beginning to show its curative effect only after about six weeks.

In regard to recurrences of psoriasis after the treatment by the iodide of potassium, the author reserves his decision, but it would appear that his method would exercise no great influence. Jarisch in the *Centralblatt für die Gesam. Therap.*—*Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Jour.*

BENZOL IN WHOOPING COUGH.—Mr. Charles Macalister has tried the effects of benzol on a great number of cases of whooping cough, some being in the stage of full development and a few on the decline. In many the benzol appeared to be effective, lessening the frequency of the paroxysms, rendering them less distressing, and also, perhaps, hastening recovery. Benzol is insoluble in water, and will not mix with it even with the aid of mucilage; but if a little rectified spirit (in which it is freely soluble) be added to a thin mucilage, together with some syrup and a few minims of compound tincture of chloroform, an excellent mixture is made.—*Lancet*.

PRURITUS VULVÆ.

BY J. HEITZMANN.

The cause of pruritus vulvæ may be either local or constitutional. As local causes we find thread worms, decomposition of the vulvar secretions with the formation of free fat acids, decomposition of the urine from lack of muscular energy in connection with the urinary secretions, masturbation, catarrh of the vagina, varicose conditions of the vulva, excoriations, fissures, erosions, ulcerations, herpes genitalis, different forms of eczema, cicatrices, also senile changes in the skin about the vulvar, and lastly pruritus is sometimes purely neurotic. Among the constitutional causes we find diabetes mellitus.

The first object of treatment accordingly is to remove the cause, as far as this is possible. Sometimes there exists a considerable enlargement of the nymphæ, in the removal of which we find the only rational indication for an operative procedure against pruritus. First, however, there are other local diseased conditions as catarrh, fissures, etc., to remove. Cauterisation of the clitoris has only a temporary effect. Pruritus, which is the result of a tractoma pudendorum developed from gonorrhœal infection is particularly obstinate. Eczema presents itself in four varieties: the moist, the scaly, the pruriginous and the marginal. The most effectual remedy for the first is a powder of fluors zinci (1-10 amylum), and afterwards ung. vaselini plumb (diachylon ointment.) In dry scaly eczema, applications of tar are indicated. For eczema pruriginum, tar soap or oleum fagi may be used, and in E. marginatum, spts. saponkalin, or green soap, is recommended. The removal of the moss-like vegetation on the inner surface of the labia is usually only temporarily effectual. The application of strong astringents is better; also the removal of keloid cicatrices is of but little use as a rule, because another cicatrix becomes established in the place of the former one. In cases produced by senile changes in the skin, strong solutions of carbolic and salicylic acid, which were formerly highly recommended, are contra-indicated. Pencilling with tinct. rusci or spts. vini gallici has a better effect. The most unfavorable cases for treat-