

of prurigo are frequently attended by erythematous or urticarial exudations seemed to him to point to a tendency in the blood in such cases to exudation, and therefore to increased fluidity—that is to say, diminished coagulability. Consequently, whatever would increase the coagulability might, he thought, relieve this troublesome symptom. The favorable results attending the administration of calcium chloride in the first few cases induced him to try it more extensively, and in almost every case the effect was very striking. Seven cases were published in 1896. Since then many observers have tried the same remedy, and on all hands he has received striking confirmation of the efficacy of this remedy, not only in cases of general prurigo, but also in relieving the itching which accompanies all kinds of eruption.—*The Therapeutic Gazette*.

THE TREATMENT OF OBSTINATE CONSTIPATION BY MASSAGE APPLIED TO THE HYPOCHONDRIUM.

BERNE has reported the treatment of this class of patients by massage applied exclusively to the region of the gall-bladder, just below the diaphragm, for the purpose of increasing the flow of bile and improving the activity of the abdominal contents. This method is particularly useful in those cases where there is relaxation of the abdominal wall and a general tendency to enteroptosis. It is well, however, not to employ this treatment should there be any possibility that the patient is suffering from gall-stone, since massage might produce a cholecystitis.

The operator passes the tips of his fingers and the ball of the thumb over the soft tissues immediately below the ribs, following the line of the lowest rib, making continuous and deep pressure, the patient laying on the back with the knees drawn up and taking a full inspiration so as to push the liver down under the operating hand. The massage lasts for about ten minutes each day, and it is stated that ten or twelve treatments are usually efficacious, but the treatment should be continued for thirty or forty days if the result is to be lasting.

As a proof that this treatment increases the flow of bile into the intestine, we find that the stools become less fetid, contain a greater quantity of bile, and that the constipation is decreased.—*Revue de Thérapeutique Médico-Chirurgicale*, Dec. 1, 1898 ; *The Therapeutic Gazette*.