

of his experiments on dogs, he found that after removal of the thyroid the urotoxic co-efficient rose to nearly double. The toxicity of the blood serum also increased after thyroidec-tomy. The thyroidin of Baumann, when given to athyroidized dogs, caused the urotoxic co-efficient to return almost to the normal, and relieved most of the nervous symptoms. Glycerine extracts of the gland were, however, much more effectual in treatment, especially with regard to the wasting, over which symptom thyroidin had very little effect. Hence the author concludes that although thyroidin is doubtless one of the active antitoxic principles in the thyroid, there are probably other derivatives of therapeutic value which have not yet been isolated.

ALBUMINURIA IN GONORRHOEA.—Colombini (*Suppl. al Policlinico*) has made a study of this subject in 372 patients suffering from acute gonorrhœa, seventy-two being complicated by epididymitis. In none of the cases had any drug been administered, and there was no evidence of cystitis or any disease likely to cause albuminuria. The pus was carefully filtered off and five different tests for albumin were applied to the filtered urine. Out of the 372 cases, albuminuria lasting from four to thirty days was found in sixty-six, and of these forty-two had epididymitis, twenty-four simple gonorrhœa. The author believes that an ascending nephritis could be excluded in his cases as also the influence of any drug, and on the whole he considers that the albuminuria was due to a process of general blenorrhagic infection, comparable to that which occurs in other infectious fevers.

THE TOXIC ACTION OF ACETYLENE.—Mosso and Ottolenghi (*Rif. Med.*) give the results of experiments with this gas on dogs, guinea-pigs, and other animals. They found that

acetylene has considerable toxic power. Small quantities of the gas sufficed to endanger the lives of the animals. Half a litre of the pure gas caused severe symptoms of poisoning in dogs, and even when mixed with air (20 per cent.) it proved fatal after an hour. If the gas was administered rapidly, the animals recovered when placed in free air, but if given slowly this did not occur, and the animals died. Large doses act chiefly by paralyzing the respiratory function, and throughout paralytic phenomena preponderate.

TUBERCULOSIS TREATED BY THE SALTS OF THE BLOOD.—Stadelmann has suggested in the *Therapeutic Gazette* that in a certain number of cases of tuberculosis there is a decrease in the normal saline constituents of the body, and he therefore suggests that it will be of advantage to give to patients suffering from this disease an increased quantity of saline material. Thus, he recommends that the phosphate of sodium shall be given in the dose of thirty grains three times a day and that subcutaneous injections of six to seven grains of chloride of sodium be used. He asserts that after the treatment there is decrease in expectoration and the objective signs of disease.

THE CAUSE OF PAIN IN CHRONIC APPENDICITIS.—Byron Robinson (*Annals of Surgery*) believes that the occurrence of pain in chronic cases of appendicitis depends on whether the appendix is or is not fixed to the underlying psoas muscle. If the appendix is adherent to the psoas, any movement of the muscle irritates it and sets up appendicular colic. This pain is not accompanied by any degree of fever or other disturbance. If the appendix is out of the line of activity of the psoas, the patient can walk or ride without pain. The author finds that in 70 per cent. of bodies examined by him there are signs of past peritonitis around the cæcum and appendix.