

## Selections.

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### Splenectomy in Malaria.

Laccetti (*Giorn. Internaz. delle Scienze Med.*) reports a case where he removed an enlarged malarial spleen. Six days later an intermittent fever appeared, which soon yielded to quinine injections. This was probably due to the sporulation of the malarial parasite, which, according to Pes, may remain latent in the blood for months. The patient experienced also violent pains in the long bones, which it is suggested were due to a vicarious action of the bone-marrow. Laccetti states that the simple congested spleens found in chronic malaria are reduced by quinine or vaso-constrictor drugs—such as arsenic, strychnine, ergotine—or electricity; when, however, there is a hypertrophic interstitial splenitis, splenectomy is indicated, especially if the enlarged spleen is painful.—*Med. and Surg. Review of Reviews.*

### Boulimia.

On August 27th an inquest was held at Plumstead upon the body of William Ward, aged 84, an army pensioner, who died from asphyxia. At the post-mortem examination three pieces of meat, measuring in all twelve inches in length, were found in the deceased's "throat." Evidence was given that he was always a gluttonous feeder and in the habit of bolting his food. His daughter-in-law said that she used to mince his food, but that even then he would bolt such large spoonfuls that he had to gasp for breath. A verdict was returned of "Accidental death." Instances of ravenous appetite are not uncommon, constituting the condition known as boulimia or bulimy, moreover this craving for food substances is sometimes associated with another condition known as polyphagism, when the sufferer eats pins, string, broken bottles, and other indigestible articles. The *Lancet* for May 5th, 1894, commented upon the death of a man in the London Hospital whose stomach was found after death to be full of a heterogeneous mass of these things. Certain tribes in South America are known as earth-eaters, from the habit they have of filling their stomachs with clay, and the custom of gorging is not uncommon among those who live a precarious life. In 1799 there was a French prisoner in England, by name Charles Domery, one of nine brothers who with their father were all remarkable for voracious appetite. One day he was allowed as much to eat as he liked, and between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. consumed four pounds of