

ture and homologies of the vertebrate skull extant—a fit completion of the gigantic labours of Rathke and Owen.

MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

Although the additions to the *Materia Medica* during the year have not been many, and the armamentarium of the Therapeutist has not undergone any unusual increment of bulk, yet the importance of this department has once again asserted itself, and the twelve months' work accomplished has not been devoid of fruit. The influence of *salicin*, *salicylic acid*, and the *salicylate of soda*, so highly lauded in the previous year with all the enthusiasm of new discoveries, has been amply tested and approved by the last twelve months' experience. Since the introduction of these remedies into general use, acute rheumatism, gout, sciatica, hyperpyrexia in its various forms, &c., have lost half their terrors in losing all their pain, and having abstracted one great element of danger—excessive heat. Dr. Hermann Weber, at the Clinical Society, asserted that, as antipyretics, these remedies were not inferior to quinine, except in ague; and M. Germain Sée, at the *Académie de Médecine*, regarded them as second only to quinine and digitalis: this latter writer insists that they are rapidly eliminated from the system, and are to be found in the urine a few minutes after their ingestion, hence the necessity for small and repeated doses (8 grains per hour). Sée and other French writers, Kunge, Hoffmann, and many Germans, have strongly advocated their efficacy in gout and neuralgia, and attribute their beneficial action chiefly to what they term their *analgesic* properties; whilst they have been highly extolled in the treatment of acute and sub-acute rheumatism, and various diseases attended with hyperpyrexia, by such English writers as Sir Wm. Jenner, Drs. MacLagan, Pollock, Curnow, Ringer, Broadbent, and a host of others. Salicylate of soda has been advantageously employed by Bade in mastitis, and by several French experimenters in locomotor ataxia, for the relief of pain in the limbs. Ebstein of Göttingen, first recommended this salt in diabetes mellitus; and in two cases under the care of Warnock, of Kiel, it succeeded in en-

tirely removing the symptoms, temporarily at all events. P. K. Pel (*Deutsch Archiv. für Klin. Med.*) has found it to be a complete failure in the treatment of intermittent fever. *Jaborandi* continues to sustain its reputation as one of the most potent diaphoretics and sialogogues. It is said to afford great relief in Bright's disease by the copious diaphoresis it produces. The experiments of MM. Charcot and Bourneville, at *La Salpêtrière*, seem to establish the deterrent and even curative efficacy of the *nitrite of amyl* in attacks of epilepsy and hystero epilepsy. Several cases reported during the year also show that this remedy must be regarded as possessing a powerful antidotal effect in cases of chloroform narcosis; whilst its potency in relieving spasm and vascular tension is now placed beyond a doubt by the numerous recorded witnesses of its successful employment in cases of spasmodic asthma, uracnic asthma, hiccough, &c. The value of *ovarian compression* in certain hysterical conditions, and the use of *metallotherapy* as therapeutic measures, have during the year been abundantly testified to by Charcot, Russell Reynolds, Broadbent, Julius Althaus, &c. From the evidence of a scientific French Commission appointed to investigate the subject, it appears that the assertions made by Dr. Burg for the last thirty years, with reference to the power of restoring sensation to anaesthetic parts by the application of special metals in special cases, are fully confirmed. A new field for scientific investigation is hereby opened up. *Physostigmine*, now largely employed in the department of Ophthalmology in ulcerated abscesses of the cornea, in *ulcus serpens*, and in suppuration after operation for cataract, has lately been extolled as an antiseptic by Drs. Von Wecker and H. Schmidt Rimpler. To our French brethren we are also indebted for the introduction of the *hypodermic use of ether* in cases of collapse of all kinds. M. Verneuil and others have employed it with great success, and indeed in some cases of post partum hæmorrhage it has appeared to obviate the necessity for the transfusion of blood. From several American sources we have reports during the year of the successful employment of the *Bisulphide of Calcium* in saccharine diabetes, as originally suggested by