

The children then very often do not show the signs of syphilis, and remain alive, and if the children are born and badly nourished, they recover generally under good diet, of which the milk of their mothers is the best. Treatment begun before the fifth month of pregnancy, and continued long enough, accomplishes this result, while that begun after the sixth or seventh month, leaves less to hope. But even in the last months of pregnancy, with very extensive papular syphilides, the "inunction cure" caused no injury to the foetus. Many pregnant women have here reached the normal end of pregnancy, and did not suffer the grave injuries to the os uteri and external genitals (ruptures, lacerations, etc.) which so often occur in syphilis, and the puerperal bed was just as favorable as in non-syphilitics.

Syphilitic children are above all things to be put under most favorable hygiene, from which the most is to be hoped. The syrup of iodide of iron and sublimate baths are of great value in their treatment. The chemical examination of the milk of women methodically treated by the inunction method, showed quicksilver in the milk for fourteen days after the end of treatment. What value such milk may possess for the suckling remains to be proven. The experiment of inoculating the milk of animals (cows, sheep, goats, and asses) with mercury and iodine, to use it in the treatment of children, have led as yet to no practical results. The author could not get the results said to have been obtained on the Scandinavian coast by feeding sheep with sea plants containing much iodine and bromine.

The gummatous forms of syphilis, the tertiary forms, find in sublimate, most especially in inunction of mercurial ointment, a more permanent means of cure than in the preparations of iodine, whose effects are most rapid in cases, it is true, but are less permanent.

The treatment of visceral syphilis and nerve syphilis has clearly gained since the combination of hydrotherapy and mineral waters with the preparations of mercury and iodine.

As in former, so also in late years, has the value of expectancy and observation established itself in the therapy of the first stage of syphilis, and Sigmund has seen a very considerable number [einen sehr betrachtlichen Theil] of patients known to him from former years, permanently cured by pure local treatment of the first symptoms—cases of spontaneous or natural cure. This result appears to occur oftener among women than among men. Further, the exhibition of mercury in small doses at longer intervals has proven more useful than attacks with larger and stronger doses. For the treatment of the second stage of syphilis, the mercurial preparations are the most reliable means of cure [Für die Behandlung des zweiten stadium der Syphilis bilden Quecksilberpräparate das zuverlässigste Heilmittel.]

That in the third stage in different seats and forms of the disease, mercury is still very often the chief remedy [das Hauptmittel] with iodine, bromine, and other agents with it in combination, has already been mentioned.

The careful study of the history of chronic syphilis refutes the error, again recently committed, of ascribing the development of the graver forms of the third stage to the use of mercury. J. T. W.—*Allgem. Mediz. Central Zeitung*, Nos. 102, 3, *Med. Neuigkeiten*, January 20-27, 1877.

THE TREATMENT OF TAPEWORM.

Prof. Mosler has been advocating a system of treating tapeworm which, according to a Swiss medical journal, has been attended with remarkable success. Its chief characteristic is the injection of large quantities of warm water into the colon, after the administration of the anthelmintic. The diet is first regulated, food being given which is supposed to be distasteful to the tapeworm—bilberry-tea, herrings, sour cucumber, salted meats. The intestines having been, as far as possible, emptied by laxatives, a dose of the extract of pomogranate-bark is administered, prepared from the fresh bark, and then a large quantity of warm water is injected into the rectum. The theory is that the worm, previously brought down into the colon, is prevented by the water from attaching itself to the wall, and is brought away by the liquid on its escape. It is asserted that in every case in which this treatment was adopted the head of the worm was removed.—*The Lancet*, June 23, 1877.

EFFUSIONS OF THE PLEURA, AND THORACICEN- TESIS (*Med. Record.*)

Dr. Beverly Robinson, in a paper on the conditions existing in effusions of the pleura, comes to the following conclusions:

Inasmuch as it is proved that puncture of the chest-walls, with a capillary needle attached to the improved aspirator, whenever performed with due precautions against the entrance of air into the pleura, is a perfectly simple and harmless operation, and further, that any appreciable amount of liquid, irrespective of its nature, is by its presence pernicious, and may become dangerous; therefore, I hold that, in all cases of pleuritis in which fluid is present, we should without hesitation make use of the aspirator to withdraw the morbid effusion.

To this law I shall only affix one limitation and one exception.

The limitation is whenever very large or excessive quantities of fluid are present, it is wiser to puncture the chest on two successive occasions, so that all risk of acute oedema of the lung on the affected side shall be avoided.