

when removed by avulsion and exposed to the atmosphere, they rapidly shrivel by the escape of their serum: their distended grape-like appearance being exchanged in a short time for that represented by little more than a few shreds of connective tissue. The treatment to which I refer consists in freely puncturing these growths from the anterior nares by means of an ordinary acupuncture-needle, thus allowing the fluid of which they largely consist to drain away. To prevent them from refilling, I follow this up by ordering the patient to inject into the nostrils a solution of carbolic acid and glycerine, which has a most marked drying-up effect, and to continue to do this daily and thoroughly for some time. In this way, I have been able to deal successfully with some cases where the growths have been of a limited nature and the patient averse to their avulsion. In the last case, I made the punctures with one of Southey's trocars, which answered well, the serum escaping through the canula. I have thus, in treatment, regarded these as being local and limited œdemas, rather than hypertrophies, and as being, when once emptied, curable by astringents. It is not always possible, from their position, to subject all these growths to puncture, otherwise I believe this plan would be found generally successful.—*Brit. Med. Journal.*

### **The Hypodermic Syringe in Diagnosis.**

—(Dr. Greenfield, assistant physician to St. Thomas' Hospital, writes a short article on the routine use of the hypodermic syringe as an aid to diagnosis. We should advise any one who has not yet learnt the value of getting assistance in this way to read Dr. G.'s remarks, and, if acted on, feel sure that he will be able to confirm all that is said in its favor.—ED.)

The employment of some instrument as an aid to the diagnosis of the nature of fluid effusions, and their distinction from solid tumors has long been a habit in surgery. The old grooved needle has now given way to more delicate hollow needles. Since the introduction of the aspirator, physicians have been led to look with far less dread upon the operation of puncturing internal organs, and those who have been most bold in its use