

are not in such close proximity as they are in Gmelin's test, and Macadie states they are therefore much more easily recognized. In doubtful cases, especially when the urine is being tested in a laboratory, the traces of bile pigment from a pint of urine can be collected in quite a small urate precipitate, and this makes the test a very delicate one. With the aid of a centrifugal machine the procedure can be carried out in less than five minutes, and it is not influenced by urobilin, blood pigments, or indican.

The danger of misinterpreting the brown color produced when the nitric acid is employed is considerable in practice, and the importance of avoiding this source of error is great. The only difficulty that might arise in connection with Macadie's test would be if calcium chloride did not give a precipitate of urates. This must be a rare occurrence, but when it arises one drop of caustic soda solution may be added to the mixture of calcium chloride and urine so as to get a phosphatic instead of a uratic precipitate. The process may then be continued in precisely the same manner as above and the reaction obtained as before.—*The Hospital*.

Scarlet Red for Epithelial Growth

Fisher first observed some few years back that solutions of scarlet red subcutaneously injected into a rabbit's ear induced an active proliferation of the overlying epithelium. As a result of this observation scarlet red has been employed to assist in the skin formation over clean granulating surfaces, and has been found of great value for this purpose, hastening the healing of large cutaneous defects and not infrequently supplanting skin grafting. Dr. Strauss publishes an article on the subject in the *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*. He employs an 8 per cent. ointment. Scarlet red is dissolved in chloroform oil, the solution being stirred until the chloroform has evaporated. Vaseline is then added to make the 8 per cent. ointment. This is spread upon gauze and is applied to the cleansed area. It should be changed every day or at least every other day. The addition of any antiseptic is unnecessary. This treatment is indicated in any large granulating area and is of special value for the epidermisation of defects following burns and for granulating wounds. In such cases, according to this author, subsequent contracting scars are in a large measure avoided. It has also acted very well in cases of ulcers of the leg, especially of the varicose variety and in weeping eczema.—*The Hospital*.