Potain concludes as follows :

1. Thoracocentesis, if performed properly and at the right time, never converts a serous into a purulent exudation.

2. The increase of cases of purulent pleurisy which has been attributed to thoracocentesis, is rather an apparent than an actual fact.

3. The indications may be based upon precise and fixed rules.

4. Thoracocentesis should always be considered as a serious procedure, which should be performed under the necessary precautions.

5. It is as great an error not to resort to the operation as it is to perform it uselessly or improperly.—Revue de thérap. méd. Chirurg.

ALBINISM IN MINES.-It has long been known that animals living for generations in dark places lose the color which is produced by exposure to the rays of the sun and assume the character of the so-called albino. It has, however, been supposed that the actual change into complete albinism is the result of generations of life in caverns, valleys, and other spots from which the sun's rays have been cut off, and that by gradual change, extending from one generation to another, the races of the albino type have been developed. According to a series of observations recorded in the Scientific American, this hypothesis must be given up, or at all events much modified. From the facts discovered during some mining operations along the famous "blue lead" near to Bangor, California, it appears that in this range of mines there was recently reopened a mine that had once been worked under the name of "the old Potter Mine" (now called after its owner, the Bishop Mine, but had been closed for thirty years. A young explorer entered a dry slope leading to a second shaft, the existence of which was unknown owing to a thick growth of brush and trees about it. In the darkness he was surprised to hear a noise arising from a number of flies that were buzzing around him. One of these he caught, and on examining it by the aid of his lantern, he was astonished to find that it was of pure white color, al. though its eyes were red. Soon afterwards he heard what was unmistakably the sound of a rattle snake, and directing his light towards the place whence the sound proceeded he saw the snake so clearly that he was able to strike it down by throwing at it a portion of rock, and afterwards to kill it by crushing it with other portions of the same material. On taking this animal into the light it proved, like the flies, to be of the purest white. Professor Harlow Ballard, of Buffalo, who was at the time near the mines making mineral explorations, procured the body of the snake and also several specimens of the "white flies." Within a week, under the influence of sunlight, the flies

assumed the natural dark color of the common house fly. The mine had originally been closed owing to flooding, but the water in it had subsided and air had been admitted, but no light. The flies, Profeseor Ballard believes, were the changed offspring of common flies imprisoned when the mine was closed. The snake, he supposes, had been carried down by a water current and had remained in the darkness long enough to undergo the loss of color of its tissues which it so markedly exhibited. The observations above recorded open up the question whether we ought to consider the change of color in the flies and the snake as due to the same cause as that which produces the true albino. Buffon assumed that the primitive color of every living thing in nature was white, or, to speak more correctly, that every living thing in nature was primitively colorless, and that development of color was sequential to changes gradually induced by varieties of conditions to which things of life have been subjected in the course of ages. The after-suggestion of Blumenbach, that the peculiar color of the eyes of albinos is due to the absence of the plack pigment, exploded the hypothesis of Buffon, and afterwards led to the view generally accepted, that the white color of the skin is brought about by a similar cause and that the loss of coloring substance is induced by a gradual and hereditary process of change. In this last record the change in the snake seems to have been direct, while in the case of the flies there was the rapid development of dark color so soon as the influence of the sun was brought into play, as if the sun's ray had developed at once a pigmentary or coloring substance. The observations open up a new line of investigation for those who are devoted to the study of the influence of external forces on living structures and of adaptability to circumstances as part of the varied manifestations of vital phenomena that must be ever in progress in our universe.-Lancet.

PRIMARY TUBERCULOUS ULCER OF TONGUE .----Jacob S., aged 24, single, stair-builder. Never had syphilis and never had any eruption upon the body. Nine months ago he noticed a small lesion upon the point of the tongue. It appeared as a small, hard lesion about the size of a pin-head, grayish in color, and was slightly painful when touched by food, etc. It commenced on the point of the tongue a little to the right of the median line, and later also another on the left of the median line. The two lesions gradually became larger and have never healed since their origin. The pain has never been marked at any time. At present this ulcer occupies the apex of the tongue, somewhat oval in shape, about three-quarters of an inch from above downward. The base is reddish in general appearance, like the floor of a granulating wound, having an irregular surface