

Baumann's iodothyron, and, according to Kocher, is very efficient in goitre.—*From Cent. f. med. Wissens.*, 1898, p. 274.

ACTION OF SOMATOSE ON THE MILK SECRETION.

JOACHIM.—A contribution to the action of somatose on the mammary glands of nursing women. (*Cent. f. inn. med.*, 1898, p. 233.) Joachim sums up his experience as follows: "Somatose is indispensable to the practitioner, if he wishes to influence the milk secretion of nursing women." In most cases there was an improvement in the appetite, the general condition, and there was a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the milk, but in a few cases even its prolonged use was without effect. Perhaps its use during the last months of pregnancy would be of service.

VARIOLA AND THE CHEMICAL RAYS.

BACKMAN.—Variola and chemical rays. (*Finska-lakar. handling*, May, 1898.) Sixty-two cases of variola were treated at Wibourg by Finsen's method, a method by which the violet rays were eliminated. Three adults and four children under two years of age were lost. His results however were very good; the period of suppuration was shortened and ameliorated and no cicatrices remained; on an average only 19.5 days were spent in the hospital, a shorter period than usual. Other acute exanthems as scarlatina, etc., were treated in the same way with equal success. He recommends a red veil in spring to avoid freckling.—*From Rev. d. Sci. méd.*, v. 52, 1898, p. 102.

ANTIVENOMOUS AND ANTITOXIC PROPERTIES OF THE BILE.

FRAZER.—Note on the antivenomous and antitoxic qualities of the bile of serpents and of other animals.

(*British Medical Journal*, 1898, v. 2, p. 595.) Having found that bile is able to neutralize the toxic action of lethal doses of snake poison, Frazer thought it might have antitoxic properties toward toxins. He mixed dried rabbit bile with a lethal dose of the diphtheria toxine and injected the mixture into rabbits. The rabbits survived, and had only a slight fever. Control experiments with the toxine showed it to be toxic. Frazer also succeeded in isolating from oxgall a substance possessing more antivenomous qualities than the original bile.

A PECULIAR CAUSE OF HÆMATURIA.

FRANK.—A case of hæmaturia and a peculiar cause for it. (*Wien. klin. Rund.*, 1897, No. 48.) A lady of about 42 years, the mother of three children, had suffered for six months with severe hæmaturia. The urine was of a clear red color and contained much blood. There was also great tenesmus, but no vesical catarrh. The examination of the uterus, adnexa and renal region proved negative. On cystoscopic examination the mucous membrane of the bladder was found covered with numerous uric acid crystals, whose sharp edges projected into the bladder. The mucous membrane itself was reddened and hyperæmic. The crystals were removed with a Bigelow's aspirator. The report of the patient two years later was that she was cured.—*From Cent. f. med. Wissens.*, 1898, p. 248.

KWASS.

KOBERT.—Kwass.—(*Hyg. Rundsch.*, 1897, p. 1096.) Kobert speaks highly of the introduction of kwass into western Europe as an economical beverage which contains little alcohol and is suitable for farmers. It is the national drink of Russia. It is obtained by the simultaneous acid and alcoholic fermentation of flour,