

of the fever a painful non-movable swelling was found in the right lumbar region. The urine did not contain pus or albumin. An incision was made from the twelfth rib to the ilium and a perirenal abscess, and an abscess between the kidney and its capsule were found and evacuated. The fever at once disappeared and recovery was complete in a month. The pus contained the typhoid bacillus.—*Medical Review*.

Thephorin.

T. A. Mass (*Therap. Monats.*) has made experimental investigations as to the value of the new diuretic agent thephorin. Thephorin is a double salt of theobromine and formic acid, and has a composition analogous to that of diuretin, but that in thephorin formic acid takes the place of the salicylic acid in diuretin. The drug was supplied to the author in the form of tablets, each containing 0.5 gram of thephorin, and also as a powder. It is easily soluble in water, especially in warm water, and forms a clear weakly alkaline solution, which becomes turbid with long keeping. The author has not tried the effect of thephorin upon human subjects, but he has injected it into rabbits and guinea-pigs, both when the animals were apparently healthy and also when nephritis with oedema had been artificially produced, in order to determine its general action, its toxic effects, the fatal dose as compared with that of diuretin, and its effect upon diuresis. The following are the conclusions arrived at: (1) Thephorin is relatively only slightly poisonous; the fatal dose lies between 0.8 gram and 0.9 gram per kilogram for the guinea-pig; the theobromine would seem to be the poisonous element, because the amount of it contained in the above dose is almost the same as that contained in the fatal dose of diuretin; (2) given in small doses, the action is a slightly irritant one, in larger and fatal doses there is general paralysis ending in death; (3) thephorin lowers the blood pressure, and at the same time increases the frequency of the pulse; (4) in sound animals diuresis is temporarily greatly increased, but the effect so quickly disappears that the whole quantity of urine passed in twenty-four hours is not increased; (5) in animals suffering from dropsy, the result of toxic nephritis, thephorin is extraordinarily effective in combating the symptom; for example, in one of the animals treated by thephorin the free fluid in the pleural and peritoneal cavities after death was only 48 c.cm., as compared with 90 c.cm. in the control animal; in another case the amount for the animal treated was 4 c.cm., as compared with 60 c.cm. in the control animal; (6) the dose of thephorin which is effective clinically is far smaller than the toxic dose;