

Abiotrophy.

Sir W. R. Gowers, who has done so much in the way of elucidating the problems of neurology, has recently coined the new and very expressive term, "abiotrophy," which signifies failure of nutrition from defective vitality, from a, bios, and trophe, or absence of life nutrition. He applies the term to those conditions, in which a tissue takes on degenerative changes instead of going on in its normal development. Iodopathic muscular atrophy, myopathic muscular dystrophy, psuedo-hypertrophic paralysis are all examples of disease that come under this term, where some inherent lack of development power exists.

Dr. McCall Anderson on Nervous Syphilis.

Whenever we suspect that a nervous affection is of a syphilitic nature, we should attack it at once with anti-syphilitic remedies, and just as energetically as if we were absolutely certain of our diagnosis. A faltering hand under such circumstances is fatal. A very prevalent belief with regard to the treatment of syphilis is, that mercury is the remedy in the early, and the iodides in the late stages. Though this is true, mercury may succeed in an old case, after the iodides have failed. Push the iodides until the symptoms yield or they disagree with the patient. The best mode of administering the mercury is by innunction.

Advances in Surgery.

Sir John E. Euhsen, in his work on surgery, twenty-five years ago made the statement that operative surgery had almost reached a finality. Looking over those years, one can see how far that great surgeon was wrong. Enormous advances have been made in surgical procedures since the above opinion was uttered. The brain and spinal cord have been freely operated upon, abdominal surgery has come into practical existence during these years, the treatment of deformities and tendon transplantation are mainly within this period. The surgery of the kidneys and the thyroid gland dates within these twenty-five years, for all practical purposes, and that of the prostate gland, etc. A glance at a work on Operative Surgery written then and now shows the great strides that have been taken onwards by this branch of the healing art. In addition to the advances in the scope and range of operative procedures, another noteworthy advance is in the numbers who are competent to perform the most difficult operations. This is due to antiseptics, the general use of anæsthetics, the multiplication of hospitals, and the superior training now given the medical student.