

cause of this phenomenon cannot be attributed to weakness, nor cachexia, for the absence of acid persists even when the patient is relieved, and on the other hand, patients in the last stages of marasmus preserve their free acid, if there is no carcinoma. It is not due to the chemical action of the cancer juice, for the eight cases observed were of non-ulcerated scirrhus. By means of this re-action Von den Velden, in one case diagnosed cancer though every other symptom of carcinoma was wanting, and the autopsy confirmed his diagnosis. In another case, he denied the existence of cancer in a case when all the symptoms of a neoplasm were united and again his opinion was confirmed by the autopsy. In a case in which the liver was affected and the stomach free, the acid did not disappear.

Dr. Edinger, obtained gastric juice by an ingenious method: he enclosed a bit of sponge in a gelatine capsule, attached a piece of string to it, and made his patient swallow it, the string being allowed to hang out of the month. In about 30 minutes the sponge was withdrawn, the capsule having been dissolved and the contents of the sponge squeezed into a proper receptacle may be submitted to examination.—*Le Prog Méd.*

**RHUS TOXICODENDRON IN RHEUMATIC INFLAMMATION OF THE SHEATHS OF NERVES AND TENDONS.**—Dr. Gifford recommends *Rhus* in some forms of chronic rheumatic affections of fibrous tissues. Sciatica may be a pure neuralgia of the sciatic nerve or a rheumatic inflammation of its sheath. In the neuralgic form *Rhus* is not the remedy; in the rheumatic form, it is of marked efficacy. In the last week in May or the first week in June, he gathers the leaves of *Rhus toxicodendron*, grown in a shady place, and gathered after sunset on a damp, sultry day. They are cut fine and macerated two weeks in 95 per cent. alcohol, in the proportion of one part of leaves to two of alcohol. The filtered liquid is kept in coloured well stopped bottles. This is diluted with pure deodorized alcohol on the decimal scale. Two drops of the third dilution taken night and morning will act beneficially within forty-eight hours on the rheumatic form of the disease. When the pains have abated somewhat, one dose at evening is to be taken till the cure is com-

plete. Dr. Gifford has found one case in which this dose was too large, none where it was too small. *Rhus* poisoning may be promptly and certainly controlled by freely applying *Lobelia inflata* externally, and by small doses of aconite and belladonna internally, given every two hours alternately.—*N. Y. Med. Journal.*

**DIRECT COMMUNICATION IN THE LIVER BETWEEN THE BRANCHES OF THE PORTAL AND HEPATIC VEINS.**—Sabourin finds in the substance of the liver, along the course of the larger divisions of the portal vein, some branches of the hepatic vein which lie in the periportal connective tissue, and, although direct communication between the portal and hepatic veins has not been actually demonstrated by microscopical sections, he is convinced that such actually exists, an opinion to which he was first led by his pathological studies. Claude Bernard also held this view, upon the physiological postulate that the capillaries are not competent to conduct the large amount of fluid carried to the liver during digestion, the greater proportion of which then would flow directly through these large communicating branches from the portal vein into the hepatic. In the intervals of digestion, the blood is prevented from passing through these vessels by a sphincter-like arrangement of muscular fibres and connective tissue, the exact character of which further experiments will be needed to determine.—*Progrès Médical*, No. 8.—*Phil. Med. Times.*

**THERAPEUTICS OF THE NICKEL SALTS.**—Prof. J. M. Dacosta, in the *Med. News* has been making some observations upon the effects of salts of nickel in various diseases. He uses principally the sulphate and the bromide, although preparations of the chloride and phosphate have also been tried. The sulphate a greenish coloured deliquescent salt is given in solution in doses of one to three grains, or even five grains frequently repeated. In cases of obstinate diarrhoea it was of apparent benefit, and in one case allayed the pains of sub-acute rheumatism. Its action was generally disappointing. The bromide appears to have the effect of the bromides in general, the dose however, requiring to be much smaller than that of the other bromide compounds. In several epileptics, it secured a diminution of the