

ures interfere with motion, passive motion was proper.

Dr. Lee was reminded of a case which was at first thought to be spinal myalgia, but which proved to be gouty disease of the cartilages, an infrequent affection. Apparatus afforded relief but of course not cure.

Dr. Ryan said that gouty spondylitis is generally attended by manifestations in other parts of the body. He had failed to state that his patient had limited respiratory movements.

Dr. Vance related a case in which there was, in addition to the spinal affection, complete immobilization of the thorax with chiefly diaphragmatic respiration.

Dr. Bartow had seen a case in which relief was afforded by the spinal jacket.

Dr. Gillette reported a case which, at the first glance, resembled the deformity of Pott's disease, but which proved to be rachitic in its etiology. Improvement followed a few days after suspension was begun.

SACRO-ILIAC DISEASE.

Dr. Lee said the sequence of events is as follows: (1) injury of the synchondrosis, (2) subacute inflammation, (3) irritation of the nerves of the joint, transmitted to the nearest plexus, (4) resulting pain in the sciatic. The sciatica should be considered the result, not the cause, of all the trouble. In nine cases out of ten neuralgia is the effect and not the cause of any trouble. As stooping in sacro-iliac disease is injurious, he had devised a handy instrument with which the patient can pick up an object from the floor while remaining erect.

Pathology.

APPARENT ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE GERMS OF ERYSIPELAS AND SYPHILIS.—Horwitz (*Phil. Med. News*, No. 949) notes two cases of syphilis which, until after accidental infection with erysipelas, resisted anti-syphilitic treatment; but, subsequently to the attack of erysipelas, improved rapidly. Apparently the streptococcus of erysipelas antagonized the bacillus of syphilis to such an extent as greatly to modify its virulence. The natural history of the bacteria shows that in many cases they are strongly antagonistic to one another, and that

the growth of one frequently means the death of another. Cases of retardation, and even of cure, of new growths by inoculation with erysipelas germs have also been recorded. The pneumonia germ of Friedlander and the anthrax-bacillus will not grow together. There appears to be room enough for experiment here and but little occupation of the field. Perhaps the *least* advances in the future, in treatment, will not be in *this* direction. J.C.

MALARIA AND THE CAUSATION OF INTERMITTENT FEVER.—Henry Baker (*Journal of the Amer. Med. Assn.*, Vol. XV., No. 16, 1890, Chicago) attempts to show that malaria depends essentially upon atmospheric relations, particularly upon temperature, and believes that this view accords very easily with that according to which malaria has heretofore been called a germ disease. The opinion of the writer seems to be that the organisms are not the cause of the disease, but that this is rather to be found in the effects of rapid changes of temperature upon the body. The changes in the red blood corpuscles he attributes to the withdrawal of chloride of sodium in the perspiration. He is of opinion that the phenomena of the disease can thus be explained as well with as without parasites, and states his views in these words: "It seems to be a generally established fact that where a highly organized being undergoes decay, organisms take the opportunity of entrance, and when these are of microscopic size we call them micro-organisms." By means of three tables of curves, the writer illustrates his idea of the connection between temperature and malaria. According to this, the relation between elevations of temperature and the progress of malaria is certainly remarkable. J.C.

Book Reviews.

Therapeutics: Its Principles and Practice. By H. C. Wood, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Mat. Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

The three years which have elapsed since the issue of the seventh edition of this work have seen unprecedented advance in therapeutics, necessitating a thorough revision and many additions to bring the treatise up to date.