

day. Though the inflammation in these cases was not so intense as in those which were recorded in the author's previous paper referred to, yet they confirm the statement that in inflammation of the brain the phosphates in the urine are increased; they also lead to the conclusion that the sulphates are at the same time increased in the same degree.

In conclusion, the author states, the phenomenon common to acute chorea and to intense delirium tremens is increased and unceasing muscular action.—The muscles are highly complex organic compounds, in which sulphur exists in an unoxidized state, and the muscular action is accompanied, if not caused, by an action of oxygen, which, among other results, gives rise to the formation of sulphuric acid and urea, the amount of oxidation being proportioned to the intensity of the muscular action. The result produced is an increase of the sulphates and of the urea in the urine, just as in health they would be increased if continued strong exercise were taken. The increased amount of urea does not constitute a disease resembling diabetes, but it is only an evidence of the changes which are taking place within. The increase of sulphates and phosphates in inflammation of the brain is also an evidence of increased oxidation of the nervous structures. These simultaneous variations depend on the fact that the amount of sulphur in the brain is nearly the same as the amount of phosphorus. Thus at one time we have evidence of increased oxidation of the elements of the nervous structures, and at another time increased oxidation of the elements of the muscular structures; and we may thus arrive at the conclusion, that at one time the function of the nerves and at another that of the muscles, is inordinately increased.

#### YEAST IN THE TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT SCARLET FEVER.

[Mr. Bennett, of Gateshead, states that he has found the administration of fresh yeast of the most invaluable advantage when the symptoms are of a malignant character. He says:]

After ammonia, the mineral acids, chlorate of potash, &c., have failed, and the application of nitrate of silver besides, one or two table-spoonsful of fresh yeast frequently given (according to the age and malignancy of the case) has, in my practice at least, been quickly efficacious as an antiseptic and stimulant.—*Medical Gazette*, January 10, 1851.

#### ENCEPHALOID DISEASE.

By Dr. Charles Kidd.

It has been said encephaloid does not arise from disease of the blood; if not, it is difficult to say whence it arises. Sir Robert Carswell long since stated, that encephaloid was a molecular deposit from deranged nutrition, and our later experience has tended very fully to corroborate his views. Laennec thought it vascular; but this can scarcely be the case, as, under the microscope, we detect little else but some of the series of nucleated cells only, without the peculiar fibre of some other forms of malignant growths. The microscope has not yet succeeded in pointing out any diagnostic appearances of malignant and non-malignant growths; it has done much, however, in showing the origin of the cancer and these allied diseases.

The highly interesting fact, described by Ascherson, that a drop of oil cannot come in contact with albumen without being enclosed in a vesicular membrane—that rubbing oil and albumen together resolves them into granules identical