

TREATMENT OF GLANDULAR SWELLINGS AND ABSCESSSES.—M. Quinart has had excellent success in twelve cases of adenitis, which he has treated in the hospital of Ghent, by means of blisters. He is not content with attacking simple engorgement of the glandular tissue at the outset with a series of blisters, as Nelaton advised, but he employs the same treatment when pus has already formed. He has in this way succeeded in obtaining resolution of suppurating glands, that have contained several ounces of pus. When the suppuration is already advanced, and threatens to perforate the skin, he punctures the sac, not through the spot where the skin is already thinned, but at the most dependent part of the tumour, where the instrument must traverse a larger extent of healthy cellular tissue. When the sac is emptied it is covered, whatever its extent, by a blister which overlaps it on all sides by one or one and a-half inches. On the next day the blister is dressed with mercurial ointment; as soon as the skin begins to cicatrize, a second blister is applied, and so on. By this procedure, M. Quinart has succeeded in curing an abscess that extended from the angle of the jaw to the clavicle, and which contained over ten and a-half ounces of pus. An opening was threatened in the centre of the tumour, where the skin was thinned. The tumour was punctured just above the clavicle, and then entirely covered by a large blister. On the next day the little wound was reopened by means of a stylet, and a quantity of serous pus escaped. On the third day the greater part of the sac was closed; the fluid that accumulated in the most dependent part was reabsorbed, and the patient now presents no mark of his immense abscess, except a small cicatrix above the clavicle.—*Gazette Medicale de Paris. Medical Record.*

THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF OPIUM FOR THE PHOTOPHOBIA OF SCROFULOUS CHILDREN.—Dr. F. Betz (*Memorabilien*, 7 Heft, 1877) states that the external application of opiates in this affection is impracticable, and that the greater ease and exactitude of carrying

it out would soon cause it to supersede the atropine treatment. It being impossible for us to always keep these cases directly under our charge, the following plan seemed to him the best to be adopted. He begins by ordering 5-6 drops of tincture of opium to children, two or three years of age, just before retiring; older children receiving corresponding doses. Besides this, a compress dipped into cold water, and folded 6-8 times, is bound to the face as to cover the forehead and upper part of the face, extending at the same time well over both eyes. In very severe cases the compress may be dipped into ice-water. At any rate, the opiate is the principal feature, and the dose of this is gradually increased until quiet sleep is secured. Photophobic children are usually quite restless during their sleep, turning and crying out every few minutes. The opiate controls this symptom. The first local sign of improvement is that the children open their eyes earlier in the morning. The action of the opiate is often so prompt that a remarkable improvement is observed after a single administration, and now and then a complete disappearance of photophobia after a few days' treatment. Other local complications often require treatment for a longer time. The great change in the disposition of the heretofore peevish and irritable child shows how much the pain produced by too bright a light affects the entire sensitive nervous system. To guard against relapses, Betz continues the evening dose of opium for a considerable period, and expresses the opinion that the general nutrition is improved thereby.—*Allgemeine Wiener Med. Zeitung*, No. 35, 1877.—*Clinic.*

COAGULATION OF PUS BY FREEZING THE SKIN OVER SUPERFICIAL ABSCESSSES.—M. Obissier, of Bordeaux, states that, on attempting to empty an abscess with the aspirator under local anæsthesia with ether, the operation was arrested by the plugging of the canula with a fatty cylinder. He believed the latter to have been coagulated pus, because two hours latter, without anæsthesia, he was able to extract 200 grammes of pus.—*Gazz. Med. Ital. Venete.*—*N. Y. Med. Journal.*