

results, it would seem, indicate a change in the views which were held by the investigator when he left England, viz., that the danger was from stoppage of the heart. Further details of the experiments will be looked for with the greatest interest.—*Lancet*.

CIRCUMCISION.—In performing circumcision the simplest method is the best. I use Henry's phimosi forceps, as I consider them superior to any other. I draw the loose integument forward, clasp the forceps firmly over it, and with a large bladed knife, cut away the surplus tissue at one stroke, and quickly pour a solution of cocaine (I usually use a four per cent. solution) over the cut, which stops all pain in a few seconds. The application of cocaine is repeated at intervals of a few minutes over the inner skin. Then with a pair of strong scissors I slit up the dorsal surface back to the corona; trim the sides with scissors to suit the first cut; if the first cut has been a little short I leave more of the under skin, but if too much is left it may become tender and furnish room for herpes. I then use a fine silk thread, about number eleven, to unite the cut edges. They should be nicely adapted, as in a majority of cases union by first intention can be secured over a large portion of the cut. I sometimes use the interrupted and sometimes the continuous suture. As a dressing I use a small piece of absorbent cotton saturated with balsam Peru; apply a roller bandage with a wide strip of muslin drawn between the legs, fastened in front and back to a strip around the waist for the purpose of retaining the dressings and to hold the penis erect. It is not necessary to put the patient to bed, he can go about his usual business unless it is manual labor. On the second or third day I direct him to take a bath, when I remove the stitches and apply a dressing of vaseline. In a few days he is well; a circumcised Gentile. I have made over 400 circumcisions, and fully fifty per cent. of these were for the cure of herpes. Many men who have herpes imagine they have syphilis, and with or without the advice of a physician take constitutional treatment. Many come to Hot Springs thinking they have "blood diseases." It is for this reason and for cleanliness that I advocate circumcision. I would follow in the footsteps of Moses and circumcise all male children. The operation is simple and free from danger.—Dr. Williams in *N. W. Med. Jour.*

BOXING THE EARS AND ITS RESULTS.—"We would fain hope that, in deference to repeated warnings from various quarters, the injurious practice of boxing the ears, once common in schools, is fast and surely becoming obsolete. It is too much to say that this desirable end has yet been realized. Certainly the recent observations of Mr. W. H. R. Stewart do not give color to this

view. In a pamphlet on "Boxing the Ears and its Results," lately published, and illustrated by appropriate cases, he briefly summarizes his own experience in the matter. He reminds us that, notwithstanding the toughness of the aural drum-head, its tense expanse will rupture only too readily under the sudden impact of air driven inward along the meatus, as it is in the act of cuffing; and he shows that in one instance at least this injury resulted from a very slight though sudden blow. Given early and skilled attention, the wound may heal very kindly, but if the beginning of mischief be overlooked, as it often has been, further signs of inflammation soon follow, and a deaf and suppurating tympanum is the usual result. There is practical wisdom in the statement that this consequence most readily follows in the case of the poorly developed and underfed children who abound in every board school. In them an earache would probably receive no very strict attention, and disease might for a time work havoc unimpeded. When chronic suppuration exists already, and it is only too common, a random knock on the ear may result, as in a case related in the *Lancet* in a fresh otitis, with fatal brain complications. School masters and others, who may at times be tempted to apply the correcting hand somewhat too carelessly, might read the few pages of this little work with equal interest and advantage. The close connection between ear and brain should never be forgotten, and the reflection that injury to the former organ most easily terminates in total deafness, and in suppuration, which may any day take a fatal course, should assist in the preservation of a sometimes difficult patience.—*Lancet*.

ASTHMA.—Of the thousand and one things which have been tried for this disease, nothing in my experience is equal to the nitrite of sodium. I am not fond of mixing drugs, and I therefore generally give it alone. In some cases, however, with the object of promoting sleep, I combine it with hyoscyamus, and in others, again, I have found the tincture of lobelia of some additional benefit. When the nitrite of sodium first came into use I gave some large doses (ten to fifteen grains) in a case of uncomplicated asthma, which had occurred in repeated attacks for years. The first dose made the patient so sick and faint that I could hardly induce her to repeat it; but although a second dose had a similar effect, the patient was freed from her asthmatic attacks completely, and had not had a recurrence when I last saw her, two or three years afterwards. Since then I have given it in from three to five-grain doses, frequently repeated, and always with the greatest benefit. With regard to hyoscyamus in this affection, as well as in other diseases, I find that the ordinary doses are of little benefit. Two drachms of the tincture or of the succus for a single dose should