

tain to the proportions that its importance as an aid to the understanding of disease demands; and although we have not hitherto derived such assistance in medicine as its thorough prosecution would render possible, there is, notwithstanding, some trustworthy evidence forthcoming to show that this reproach in the past will cease to have weight in the future. For one thing, it may be urged in defense of our present ignorance on the subject, that the conditions necessary to successful study of disease in animals have, in effect, to be made, and that whoever would enter on it with any satisfactory prospect of advantage therefrom, must first, of necessity, take steps for acquainting himself with details, zoological and morphological, which can only be acquired by a special and prolonged education. Fortunately, however, there are not wanting in this age spirits able and willing to undertake the huge task that such a devotion implies; and among the band of workers in this field of investigation, Mr. John Bland Sutton, F. R. C. S., has already made considerable advances in this country. We have already been able to publish in these columns some of the results of Mr. Sutton's observations; and we have now to draw attention to a very valuable essay contributed by him to our American contemporary the *Journal of Comparative Medicine and Surgery*, on the subject of tuberculosis in birds. The observations embodied in this paper extended over a series of years, and were principally carried out in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London, where the author has long enjoyed the privilege of making *post mortem* examination of the animals dying in confinement there. Mr. Sutton points out that one of the earliest conclusions to which he was driven, is that disease in animals observes a zoological distribution, and that as regards tuberculosis, the class almost peculiarly affected is that of which the food consists of grains, fruits and vegetables. It occasionally, however, is met with in birds of prey; but in this connection it is interesting and important to learn that it is conveyed to them from infected graminivorous or frugivorous birds forming part of their food. Other examples also are given of animals contracting the disease from their ingesta, and the suggestiveness of the conclusion thus arrived at will not fail to commend itself to medical men; nor can we fail to reflect on the significance of the fact, demonstrated now for the first time by Mr. Sutton, that grain-eating birds are in an enormous majority among those in which tuberculosis is developed; and from this to the danger of infection from such infected material the mind very readily passes. The paper to which have alluded describes in careful detail the morbid anatomy and etiology of the tuberculous process in birds, and contains a vast amount of material of the highest interest to professional readers; and we heartily welcome it as a noteworthy addition

to the labors already so efficiently carried out in a neglected field of study by an exact and painstaking investigator.—*Medical Press*.

### MEDICAL NOTES.

To disguise the odor of *iodoform*, the best agent is thymol.

It has been recently asserted that massive doses of iodide of potassium will cure *gonorrhœa*.

Dr. Longstreth affords patients suffering with *stomatitis* much relief by the local application of cocaine.

Nine or ten inches below the tubercle of the tibia is the place to amputate in order to get the *best stump* for the application of an artificial leg. (Prof. Brinton).

It may not be widely known that an extemporaneous liquor ammonii acetatis may be produced by simply dissolving the carbonate of ammonia in pure vinegar.

For the cough of *phthisis* :—

R—Terebene,

Creasoti, . . . . . āā f ʒij.—M.

SIG.—Inhale fifteen or twenty drops from a hot sponge several times daily.

Do not let patient with *phlegmasia alba dolens* be moved before four weeks after the beginning of the disease. Use a bandage when patient begins to sit up. (Prof. Parvin).

In incipient *fatty degeneration of the heart*, and myocarditis, a combination of exceeding value is iron with nitro-glycerine. (Prof. Bartholow).

In *angina pectoris* the centesimal solution of nitro-glycerine seems to be mostly used with good results at the Jefferson College Hospital.

Next to ergot as a remedial agent to restrain *hemorrhage*, Prof. Parvin places *hydrastis canadensis*, gtt. xv-xx ter die. He has never seen any good derived from *gossypium*.

In the treatment of *gout* and those with a gouty constitution, Prof. Bartholow states that sulphate of manganese is a remedy of great utility, its virtue being chiefly due to its effect on the hepatic functions.

Prof. Parvin recently gave the following formula for *amenorrhœa* with anæmia, which he has used for many years, and in certain cases derived very satisfactory results :—

R—Terebinthinæ albæ,

Pulv. aloes,

Ferri sulph. exsic., . . . . . āā gr. j.

Ft. pil.

SIG.—Ter die.