

### Contribution to the Knowledge of the Etiology of Syphilis.

Max Schüller (*Centralb. f. Bakt. u. Parasit*) has also found in syphilis a micro-organism of probably protozoan nature, present in the hard chancre, the secondary and tertiary lesions of the disease, and especially in the hereditary form of the disease. In hard chancres kept in alcohol he was able to find, by 1,000 times magnification, exceptionally small oval vesicular bodies arranged in rows. They had double contoured glittering capsules and brownish or brown-yellowish, sometimes darker, contents. In teased and stained preparations larger free bodies were observed. Their appearance and finer structure recall those found by S. in tumors, though they are obviously different. In addition, by treating sections with iodid of potassium and examining them under a high power, he was able to demonstrate fine, zig-zag or spiral passages passing directly from the surface of the chancre in an oblique or transverse direction to tubes or pockets in the deeper part of the inflammatory infiltrated tissue. These were filled with peculiar "shot-like" round or conical dark-brown or violet bodies, in which by appropriate transmitted light doubly contoured vesicles are visible. These parasites were found in all of the tissues examined and were present in the blood of the spleen of a case of fatal florid syphilis. The presence of the bodies is as constant and of as great diagnostic value as the presence of the tubercle bacillus in tuberculosis, in Schüller's opinion. The experimental cultivation of the organisms was attempted similarly to the method described for the microparasite of carcinoma.—*International Med. Magazine*.

### The Absorption of Iodide by the Human Skin.

According to *La Semaine Medicale*, ZALLARD has applied the iodide of sodium in the form of a watery solution to the skin of lower animals, and also to the skin of human beings, in an endeavor to find out whether a solution of iodide of sodium of the strength of five per cent. is absorbed in considerable quantity so that it can be obtained in the urine. As a result of his investigation, he finds that it is so absorbed, and that it is quite slowly eliminated. He believes that a sufficient quantity of the drug may be absorbed through the skin, particularly if large areas of the skin are wet with the solution, or if the body is immersed in it, to produce very distinct therapeutic effects.

### The Artificial Production of Gout.

Kionka (*Berl. klin. Woch.*) has succeeded in producing a condition strongly simulating gout, by administering chronic or oxalic acid to poultry, or by feeding them upon lean horse