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## WORLD OF MEDICINE.

**Skin Reaction in Carcinoma.** An article entitled "A Skin Reaction in Carcinoma from the Subcutaneous Injection of Human Red Blood Cells," by Chas. A. Elsberg, Harold Neubof and S. H. Geist, appears in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* for February, 1910. Based upon the well known observations that the serum of cancer patients possesses hæmolytic properties *in vitro* in a large percentage of the cases. Elsberg conceived the possibility that this hæmolytic test might show a higher specificity if conducted under more normal conditions in the suspected patient. For this purpose he injects a 20 per cent. solution of washed normal human red blood corpuscles beneath the skin of the arm of the suspect. A positive hæmolytic reaction is evidenced by a peculiar colour of the overlying skin, varying from a brownish red to a maroon, with rarely a bluish tinge. With this change in colour there is a slight elevation of the skin. The reaction usually appears within five hours, but may vary between two and eight hours, and disappears, on the average, six to twelve hours after the injection. The authors report their observations upon 684 injections in 432 patients. Of 69 undoubted carcinoma cases, the reaction was positive in 89.9%. Of 325 non-carcinoma cases, the reaction was positive in 4.6%. In nine cases of possible carcinoma, the reaction was positive in 77.8%. In eleven cases of

very advanced or miliary carcinoma, the injection was negative.

In this connection, we are interested in a Comparative Study of Hæmolysis in Vitro and in Vivo as a Means of Diagnosis of Carcinoma, reported by Arthur Krida, in the *Albany Medical Annals* for May, 1910. Using the Elsberg subcutaneous injection of blood as an hæmolysis test for carcinoma, the author found it positive in nine out of twelve cases. In four cases of carcinoma without clinical recurrence the reaction was negative. The reaction was positive once in twenty-three cases of miscellaneous disease and was negative in twenty-five clinically well patients. The author concludes that this method is of corroborative value in suspected cases of carcinoma.

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**Treatment of Infantile Fevers.** Every acute disease in young children is ushered in with fever, because the undeveloped cortex fails to inhibit, the fever being therefore an exhibition of vasomotor unrest, according to W. C. Hollopeter and H. Booker Mills, who write for *American Medicine* for December, 1909. Continuing, they teach, in substance, as follows:

The clinical importance of the above lies in the fact that symptoms which, in adults, are often restricted chiefly to the organ or region primarily involved, tend in children to be