or only slightly opaque. The technique of the method consists in puncturing the lobe of the ear, and allowing 15 to 20 drops of blood to flow into a capillary glass tube 1½ mm. thick and 4 in. long, which after being hermetically sealed with wax is placed upright with the column of blood below. In a few hours the clear serum has separated from the coagulum which remains at the bottom, and any discolouration is readily detected.—*Medical Review.*

Clinical Observations in Arrhythmia.

F. Lommel (*Deutsches Archiv für klin. Med.*, Bd. lxxii) studied two forms of pulse arrhythmia, those caused by presystolic contraction and those due to the respiratory phases. In the first form the occurrence of occasional double beats in a cycle he finds in three conditions—in increased blood-pressure, diseases of the heart muscle, and nervous disturbances; in one case it seemed due to the greater internal pressure, and in the two others the abnormal irritability of the heart seemed to inhibit the precontraction. By the exact measuring of the pulse wave which follows on the presystolic contraction and the contraction of the auricle on the cardiogram, Lommel concludes that the increased blood-pressure in the ventricle and in other cases in the auricle produces the abnormal irritability. The arrhythmic disturbances of the heart (quickened by inspiration and slowed by expiration) are only exaggerated physiologic fluctuations occurring in convalescence, cardiac neuroses, and central nervous disturbances, and very seldom in organic diseases.—*Medical Age.*

The Pathology and Therapy of Asthma.

SIHE (*Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift*) presents an exhaustive consideration of asthma, in which he maintains that it is a neurosis of the respiratory and circulatory tracts. Four factors stand out pre-eminently in this connection: (1) Hypertonia of the unstriated muscle fibers of the respiratory tubes: (2) hypotonia of the circulatory system; (3) bronchial secretion brought about through nervous influences; and (4) hyperemia of the mucous membrane of the entire respiratory tract. These four factors can be stimulated through three sources, viz: the peripheral nervous system, irritants circulating in the blood, and through the cerebrum. The author speaks therefore, of a peripheral, a hematogenic, and a cerebral asthma.—*Interstate Med. Jour.*