

swallowed animals of greater weight than themselves. Dr. Stradling has related the case of an Elaps lemniscatus which swallowed and afterwards disgorged an Amphisbena longer than itself and weighing half as much again. Boas are certainly not always very particular as to the nature of their food, and some years ago one at the Zoological Gardens swallowed her blanket. She was, however, male to disgorge it, when Mr. Buckland described it as being like a long flannel sausage. Like other creatures which have the power of consuming an immense amount of nourishment at one time, snakes have also the power of fasting for a considerable period. Catharine Hopley, in her interesting book on the curiosities of serpent life, lends her authority to the story that they may live for two years without food, and there is at any rate evidence to show that a rattlesnake lived at the Zoological Gardens for some months without food.—*Lancet*.

A NEW CURE FOR PERNICIOUS ANÆMIA AND LEUCOCYTHEMIA.—“While sitting alone, and in profound sorrow, in my library, on Sunday morning, the 29th of April last, I suddenly saw a great light.” It is in this somewhat dramatic way that Dr. I. N. Danforth, whose patient was suffering from pernicious anæmia, begins his description of a new method of treating that disease. The light which he saw was reflected from the following paragraph in a London journal: “Professor Frazer, of Edinburgh, read a paper to the Section of Medicine” (of the Eleventh International Medical Congress, at Rome) on “The Effects of Bone Marrow in Pernicious Anæmia,” which attracted considerable attention. He gave particulars of a case in which at the beginning of the disease the hæmatocytes numbered 1,000,000 per cubic millimetre, and the hæmoglobin 25 per cent. After a month's treatment, first with iron, then with arsenic, afterward with salol, no appreciable improvement was manifested. At the end of that time bone marrow was administered with most remarkable results. The patient gradually improved, and in two months the blood had a composition of 4,000,000 hæmatocytes, and the hæmoglobin had risen to 80 per cent. This case shows, so far as a single case can, that in bone marrow we may perhaps have an effective remedy for what has hitherto been practically held to be an incurable disease.

Dr. Danforth immediately got some bone marrow and began feeding it to his patient, whose condition, despite everything that had been tried, was desperate. She at once began to improve, and in four or five months was comparatively well.

After a time, instead of giving the marrow in its natural state, he cut up several ribs and

allowed them to soak in glycerine. He then made the following mixture:

R—Liq. potas. arsenit., . . . . . 3 ijss.  
Acid phosphate, . . . . . 3 iij.  
Ext. bone marrow, . . . . . 3 viij.

M. Sig.—3 ij. after each meal.

The addition of the arsenic robs the bone marrow of some of the credit. This addition was not made, however, in Professor Frazer's case.

We note also that Dr. W. G. Bigger reports, in a London journal, a case of leucocythemia in a boy aged 12. The patient was given three or four slices of bread daily, on which the raw bone marrow was thickly spread. The improvement in the boy's condition after the first week was “little short of marvellous.” The anæmia and jaundice disappeared, and the skin and mucous membrane acquired a healthy color. The symptoms due to the anæmia at the same time passed off, and in three weeks the boy was able to walk about without shortness of breath or palpitation. The temperature also became normal, and has remained so. *Pari passu* with this improvement in the general symptoms, the spleen diminished in size, so that by the end of a fortnight the lower edge had receded to a level with the anterior spine of the ilium, and the inner edge did not extend beyond the middle line.

The boy eventually became entirely well. Both the cases reported are apparently examples of cures of obstinate and dangerous diseases. If we have a remedy for them in bone marrow, therapeutics has made a remarkable advance.—*N. Y. Med. Rec.*

THE TREATMENT OF SYCOSIS MENTI.—Sycosis menti, whether of the simple or the parasitic variety, I have always found to be quickly amenable to treatment. Ointments are slow and nasty; epilation is tedious and painful. Both forms of treatment, whether used separately or together, will, as a rule, have succeeded in disgusting a patient by the time he is beginning to derive some benefit from their employment. The following line of treatment I have invariably found to exert most influence in checking the progress of this disease, and in totally eradicating it in parts where it has been already established. Having cropped the beard close to the skin, and having had the affected area thoroughly washed with superfatted soap and warm water, I apply a strip of lint well soaked in the acetum of the B. P. to the diseased part. This having been carefully covered with a large piece of oiled silk or rubber protective, I allow to remain on for twelve hours. On removing the vinegar dressing I substitute for it a similar piece of lint soaked this time in a solution of the perchloride of mercury (1 in 1200) and applied in