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**THE ABUSE OF COFFEE.**

Mendel, of Essen, has recently pointed out that when coffee is taken too freely for long periods it induces a peculiar train of symptoms which are characteristic. It affects not only the nervous system, but also the circulatory and muscular systems. The nervous symptoms include a feeling of general weakness, apathy and mental depression. The motor symptoms noticed were loss of power and tremor in the extremities, while the circulatory disturbance was evidenced by a small, weak and irregular pulse, with palpitation. Nervous dyspepsia and constipation were usually present also.

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**THE GERMAN CONGRESS FOR INTERNAL  
MEDICINE.**

At the recent Congress held this year in Vienna, several very important discussions took place. The distinguished president, Prof. Nothnagel, opened the proceedings of the Congress by an able address on the past, present and probable future of medicine. Immermann, of Bielefeld, introduced a discussion on the treatment of empyema. He prefers puncture of the thorax with aspiration of the pus contained in the pleural cavity, while Schede recommends the more radical operation of resection of the ribs with the subsequent antiseptic treatment of the wound. It was decided to form a collective investigation-committee to report at a subsequent meeting of the Congress.

Prof. Mosler read a paper on the pathology of pemphigus. He looks upon it as being due to nervous influences, repeated