

cles, contractile protoplasm in rest, zymotic granules, or granules of gland ferments, protoplasm of cartilage cells, eosmophilous white blood corpuscles.

3. *Saffranin*. — Plasmasoma in small cells, part of myeline sheath of nerves, all nuclei in a state of formation, therefore all young cells, nuclei of red blood corpuscles of frog.

Selections.

A CASE OF EXTREME STRICTURE OF THE ŒSOPHAGUS OF LONG DURATION.

BY ALFRED HARVEY, M.D.

On Dec. 1st, 1886, I was consulted by T. P., aged 46, for some dyspeptic symptoms, and he incidentally informed me that he had a stricture of the œsophagus of 40 years' duration, which had proved impassable to instruments, and practically prevented his swallowing anything but liquid foods.

On further inquiry he gave the following history: At the age of five years he swallowed some strong sulphuric acid. For the resulting injury he was under the care of Dr. Wilcox, of Bath Row, for upwards of a year. Ever since then the throat had been almost closed. He had lived chiefly on milk, beef tea, eggs, and corn flour; could not swallow sago. When a boy he remembered getting something in his throat "not so large as a grain of pearl barley," which necessitated treatment at the General Hospital. He had been a patient at various institutions. About ten years before he had been an in-patient at the General Hospital, where many attempts were made to pass bougies, but without success, and where a consultation was held to consider the possibility of other operative interference.

When I first saw him he was a pallid, gaunt man of 5 ft., 9½ in. in height, and weighing 8 st. 12 lbs. He was then living upon fluid food, which he always strained through a sieve, not daring, as he told me, to drink even a glass of beer without that precaution; he could eat potatoes and bread and butter, but did not care to do so, as the process of swallowing was extremely tedious; could not eat meat. On ex-

amination, a stricture was found at the level of the cricoid cartilage so tight that it would not admit a No. 2 urethral bougie.

On Dec. 3rd, after a sitting of 30 minutes, a No. 1 bougie was passed, and was kept in about an hour. Three days afterwards a No. 2 passed pretty easily, and the stricture was slowly dilated by the passage of a bougie every three or four days, till on March 30th, 1887, a No. 16 was passed. The patient was then 9 st. 10 lbs. in weight; could eat ordinary diet, and enjoyed his meals, keeping almost free from dyspepsia. He looked much better, and felt for the first time in his life equal to his work. As the œsophagus then answered every useful purpose, I did not dilate farther, but gave him a No. 15, which he learned to pass easily. The bougies used were the ordinary black gum elastic flexible ones, of French make.

I have recently (June, 1889) seen T. P. again. His health has remained good during the past two years, and he has gained a little more in weight. After a few months he neglected the use of the bougie, and some contraction of the œsophagus has taken place, as it only admits with difficulty a No. 11. He will probably continue to neglect it until progressing contraction causes a perceptible difficulty in the power of swallowing.

The points of interest in this case are (1) the recovery of the patient as a child after such extensive injury, and the prolongation of his life with so small an œsophagus; and (2) the completely anæsthetic condition of the cicatricial tissue about the throat, which permitted the necessary manipulations without pain, and almost without discomfort to the patient.—*Birm. Med. Review*.

TREATMENT OF CHLOASMA.—Besnier affirms (*Jour de méd.*) that chloasma can be made to disappear by the following treatment: The part is to be scrubbed with green soap until it is somewhat reddened. Then equal parts of mercurial ointment and vaseline are to be worn all night spread on muslin and covered with rubber cloth. This is to be washed off with warm water in the morning, and during the day an ointment composed of carbonate of bismuth and kaolin, each 3 ij, and vaseline 3 j, is to be worn.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*