

this simple means the patient is really "bled into his own veins," the blood pressure in the heart is reduced, the heart is stimulated by the heat, and the blood which, as we before said, is a part of the patient's capital is conserved for future need, when perhaps the powers of the system are strained to the last point of endurance. No doubt when the temperature is high, the practice tends to check radiation, but this disadvantage is small when compared with the relief obtained by its use. The question of using an anodyne liniment having slight counter-irritant action has been raised, to avoid this addition to the body heat, but remembering the words of Rindfleisch, that moist heat is what is required, we do not think that the liniment would fulfil so useful a purpose as the poultice.

The question of treating pneumonia by large and repeated doses of quinine is as yet *sub judice*, though several men of experience have reported very favourably as to its action. We hope to present to our readers some of the conclusions of the profession in this matter, in the near future.

A FIELD FOR OUR ANATOMISTS.

A clever writer in one of our English magazines some months ago undertook the task of attempting to describe man as he would be some thousand years hence, after having undergone all the various changes brought about by the gradual "adaptation to environment"—to use scientific phraseology. The author came to the conclusion that man in after ages would be a hairless, toeless animal, incapable of extended locomotion, and with a head abnormally large. The data from which he argued are easily recognized: the wearing of hats and boots, and the large amount of time spent in pure brain work are the chief.

By some the article was considered to be merely a travesty on the theory of evolution. By others it was thought to be a true but over-estimated account of the practical workings of that theory. In whatever light regarded, however, the paper contains many suggestions, interesting, not only to the evolutionists and biologists, but especially to enthusiasts in the study of human anatomy.

Whatever views may be held on the doctrine of the descent of man, it is a matter of every day

experience that morphological and physiological changes are created by "adaptation to environment." Nor are these changes by any means limited to the lower animals. Perhaps, indeed, owing to his greater activity and dispersion over the whole globe, these changes are greater and more apparent in man. This it is which makes the subject interesting to the general biologist, and consequently to the medical man. Let us glance at a few of these changes; and, for sake of example, let our view be limited to the professional and upper classes.

These classes devote a large portion of the twenty-four hours to reading. In process of time this must give rise to many more or less minute anatomical peculiarities. There will be a tendency to myopia, since the lens will contract a habit of remaining fixedly abnormally convex. The external and internal recti muscles will be enormously developed. And for this reason: in perusing a page of a book or a column of a newspaper, the eye travels from left to right and back again several hundred times, while the superior and inferior recti act but once or twice.

Again, these classes lead a comparatively sedentary life. The gluteal muscles consequently being imperfectly nourished, will tend to gradual atrophy. The tuberosities of the ischium, too, may change in form.

Violent exercise being rare, the respiratory muscles will degenerate. Man will become short-winded, in fact. Already there is a vast distinction in this respect, not only between man and the lower animals, but also between different tribes of men—between the average American young lady and a North American Indian for example. The increasing use of vehicles will hasten such changes in the gluteal and respiratory muscles.

Owing to the fact that so many actions are performed by the right hand alone, not only will mankind become more generally one-handed, but, as a consequence of this, the left side of the cerebellum should preponderate in size over the right. This may in time appreciably alter the shape of the cranium. Perhaps the upper extremities and the head will cease to be bilateral.

These are but a few isolated instances of changes which must undoubtedly be gradually taking place in a single class of men. It would be interesting to extend the enquiry further: to examine, for ex-