

considerable attention during the past year from Dr. Fehleisen, of Berlin, and his treatise on the subject may be regarded as another step in the perfection of our knowledge of the disease. Fehleisen succeeded in isolating the erysipelas micrococci and in propagating them by culture, and inoculating rabbits with these artificial cultured fluids, producing a disease absolutely identical with erysipelas. Hospital patients were also inoculated with like results. He then turned his attention to the therapeutics of the disease. The two agents tried were those used for the dressing of wounds in Bergmann's clinic, a one-per-cent. solution of corrosive sublimate and a three-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid. The former destroyed the disease germs after an exposure of ten to fifteen seconds, while the latter required about forty five seconds. In Bergmann's clinic where these antiseptics are used, only two cases of erysipelas occurred during a period of four and a half years. The collective investigation committee of the British Medical Association have presented a provisional report on the pathology of pneumonia, based on an analysis of 350 cases. The report is opposed to the doctrine that pneumonia is a specific fever, whose chief local manifestation is in the lung. It confers no protection upon the individual, but rather the reverse. It has no direct association with specific or conveyable disease, and its near alliance with tonsillitis is in striking contrast with its rarity in diphtheria. Its occurrence as an epidemic may be partly explained by atmospheric conditions, and partly by other agencies prejudicial to health. The report calls attention to the immunity from fatal pneumonia enjoyed by total abstainers, and the great fatality among the intemperate. It also emphasizes the dangers of high temperature in pneumonia, which suggests careful attention to the use of the thermometer, and the means of lowering the temperature in the treatment of this disease. It is now pretty well known that the tendency to death is by failure of the heart, and the effect of high temperature on its muscular wall cannot but be highly injurious. The committee hopes to obtain a *thousand* cases on which to base a complete report, and we trust the members of the Association and others will aid in the work, by filling up the cards sent them. Dr. Dinaud (*L'Union Medicale*, July 19, '83) has brought prominently under the notice of the pro-

fession the use of perchloride of iron, not only in diphtheria, but also in typhoid fever. In the former disease he regards it as almost a specific, and although he does not so regard it in typhoid, he believes it to be of great efficacy. The iron should be commenced at the beginning of the second week and continued until convalescence. In the *Brit. Med. Journal*, Dr. Hare makes a strong plea for the restoration of "good remedies out of fashion"—emetics and bleeding. He referred to the value of emetics in the early stage of croup, in the removal of false membranes in diphtheria, and in the relief of attacks of suffocative bronchitis, in all of which he had no doubt of their exceeding great value. With regard to blood-letting, he referred to its great advantage in engorgement of the right side of the heart, from whatever cause, and strengthened his position by referring to cases in illustration. In connection with the subject of bleeding, mention may be made of a novel method employed by Mr. Coppinger (*Brit. Med. Journal*, Sept. 15, '83) for abstracting blood. The needle of the aspirator was inserted into the jugular vein of a patient suffering from an overloaded vascular system, and four ounces of blood withdrawn. The operation being entirely satisfactory, the surgeon repeated it in the course of half an hour, removing six ounces more. The patient was greatly benefited and no bad results followed the procedure. Dr. Willcocks, of Charing Cross Hospital, London, Eng., contributes an interesting article on the pathology of anæmia and chlorosis and their treatment by iron and arsenic. The value of these remedies combined, in well selected cases, has been endorsed by many different observers. In the treatment of whooping-cough, Dr. Webb (*Am. Practitioner*) speaks very highly of croton-chloral. He gives it in grain doses to children one year old, and increases it to two grains for children ten years of age. The first few doses may cause irritation about the throat, but this soon passes away. The relief is so marked in some cases that patients fall asleep in their chairs. The therapeutic value of the salts of nickel have been investigated by Dr. DaCosta, of Philadelphia. The chloride, bromide, acetate, sulphate, and phosphate were the salts tested, and of these the sulphate and bromide proved the most useful. In obstinate diarrhoea excellent results were obtained from one to two-grain doses of the sulphate four times a day.