the institution. An element of danger disclosed by the researches of Dr. Lancry is the great vitality of the diphtheritic germ. Examples are quoted, on the authority of M. Revilod, of Geneva, where one or more years had elapsed between attacks of diphtheria in the same family, and which were attributed by Revillod to a hereditary tendency to diphtheria; but which Lancry, in the light of his investigations, very properly thinks should rather be attributed to the vitality of the infection of diphtheria.—St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Prof. Dal Costa states that there are laid down two principal plans of treatment of acute rheumatism :

1. Salicylic acid and the salicylates. These are unquestionably the most speedy remedies, but should not be employed in those cases in which much weakness exists, for it greatly increases the sweats and depression, or in those cases where tendency to cardiac complication is manifested. In these latter it has been stated to be worse than useless.

If the acid be used, which is preferable to its salts, give not less than sixty to ninety grains in twenty-four hours. Ten grains may be given in emulsion for six hours, if borne well, and then the same doses may be given at intervals of two hours.

If the salicylates are used, give three drachms in twenty-four hours. If this plan acts at all, it will do so promptly; and if good results are not achieved by the second or third day, it had better be abandoned.

2. The alkaline plan. This consists in rapid saturation with the alkalies. It lessens the complications, but no good can be achieved by small doses. An ounce to an ounce and a half of either the bicarbonate or acetate of potassium must be given the first twenty-four hours, half as much the following day, and three or four drachms each day thereafter.

Employ until the urine becomes neutral or alkaline, and then diminish the dose as above named.—*Col. and Clin. Rec.* 

THE HEAT CENTRE.—At the recent session of the Helvetian Society of Natural Sciences, at Geneva, Professor Girard gave an interesting account of some late experiments of his in Schiff's luboratory to ascertain the location of the heat centre. These experiments, which were made on hares, have led him to conclude that the cerebral centre of thermogenesis is the corpus striatum. Every lesion affecting this hody in its median part produces a pronounced hyperthermia, which does not result from spasm of the vaso-constrictor nerves of the skin, but from an augmentation of caloric production. Electric excitation of this region, which is followed

by a marked augmentation of heat, justifies the assertion that the hyperthermia is a phenomenon of excitation and not of paralysis. Moreover, after puncture and irritation of this region of the cerebrum, there was a considerable increase in the quantity of nitrogen excreted in the urine, indicating an increase of the organic combustions; this was accompanied by notable emaciation of the animal. Girard considers the thermogenetic centres as including not only this median portion of the striate body on both sides, but all the subjacent parts to the base of the brain. There is here, according to him, an apparatus whose excitation increases the production of animal heat, and which probably concurs under physiological conditions to regulate heat productions. In answer to the question, " Is the artificial hyperthermia thus obtained identical with fever? he answers, "No." Augmented heat production and diminished heat emission, such, in his view, are the two necessary factors of that pathological calefaction which constitutes fever. But the last of these factors was wanting in his experiment.-Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.

SKIN-ABSORPTION.-Dr. Peter F. Fedoroff has made fifteen experiments on three men and three women, to settle the question as to whether the intact human skin can absorb solid medicaments from solutions applied by means of an atomiser. To guard against any possibility of inhalation of the drug, the patient, in each case, was stripped to a certain part of the thigh, placed on an easy chair, and his or her legs passed through a hole in a door, so that the patient was in one room and the legs in another; all holes and cracks in the door were then hermetically sealed. Before operation the legs were washed with warm soap and water, and after operation they were carefully washed and dried (not rubbed) with a hygroscopic towel. A steam atomiser was used and kept at such a distance as gave the greatest strength of jet. A quart of solution was pulverized on each occasion, the time employed being 50 minutes to 2 hours. In ten cases a 3 to 15% solution of pot. iod. was used; in the remaining 5, a 6 to 12%solution of hydro-chlorate of lithium. After each experiment the writer collected the urine voided during the next 24 hours, and in no case was a trace of iodine or lithium ever found. - N.Y. Med. Abstract.

SIMPLE TEST FOR WALL-PAPER.—A simple and easily-applied test for wall-papers has been devised by Mr. F F. Grenstted. No apparatus is needed beyond an ordinary gas-jet, which is turned down to quite a pin-point, until the flame is wholly blue; when this has been done, a strip of the paper suppected to contain arsenic is cut one-sixteenth of an inch wide, and an inch or two long. Directly the