

this was his chief special treatment. The object was to dilute the fluids of the system and wash out the toxins in the blood and intestinal canal. M. Lichteim adopted this treatment and reports nine successful cases. Recently M. Maillart, of Geneva, has made an elaborate study of this mode of treatment, reporting fourteen cases in detail, of which one died. (*Revue de Médecine*, November, 1893, and March, 1894.) Maillart thinks that the water-drinking method should be "erected into a special method of treatment." In order to secure the proper results the patient must drink five or six litres (quarts) of water a day. There is no contra-indication for the use of water in this way, for it does not weaken the heart, but has rather the contrary effect. The results obtained are a progressive lowering of the fever, a disappearance of dryness of the mouth, a marked sedation of all the nervous symptoms, and an improvement in the action of the heart and kidneys. There is an abundant diuresis and an unusual increase in the perspiration. Urea is carried off in large amounts. The treatment does not shorten the course of the disease, but simply makes it milder and less fatal. Patients, we are told, take kindly to this method. The typhoid patient takes usually six to eight glasses of milk daily, and if to this are added ten to twelve glasses of water, the diluent effect should be very great.—*Ed. Med. Rec.*

LITHÆMIA.—On March 6th Professor DaCosta gave by invitation a lecture in the Medical Hall of the University of Pennsylvania on the Pathology of Lithæmia, and, taking this for a foundation, he indicated a line of treatment which, coming from such an authority, is worthy of full consideration. The term "lithæmia," as applied to a morbid state, involves much more than the presence in the blood of a mere excess of lithic or uric acid. Lithæmia is a modified form of gout, and appears to be the form in which gout particularly manifests itself in America; but in lithæmia deposits of urates in the vicinity of joints are not observed, and attacks of acute arthritis of toes and fingers do not occur. There may be, however, a painless enlargement of the terminal finger joints, especially in elderly people, with impairment of function. The cardiac hypertrophy and kidney degeneration of true gout do not belong to the clinical history of lithæmia. The blood tension may be increased, but it is so to a less degree than in gout, and the arteries do not exhibit the atheromatous condition that characterizes the graver form of the disorder. The symptoms have already been described by the same authority. The main points are the impaired digestion, muscular pains, neuralgic attacks and pains in the tendons, indisposition to exertion, irritability of temper, depression of spirits, fre-

quent and severe attacks of vertigo and migraine, sleeplessness, and drowsiness during the day. The main factor in treatment is regulation of the diet. The food ought to be mainly vegetable. Green vegetables (especially asparagus), fresh fruits, stale or toasted bread, with the white meat of poultry and fish, should constitute the chief items. An excess of carbohydrates, especially sugar, should be avoided. The only drink to be allowed is water, and sufficient quantities should be taken to flush the kidneys. Mineral waters may be ordered to accomplish the same purpose. Alcohol should be positively excluded. Exercise in the open air is also an important part of the treatment. But little drug treatment is required. Saline laxatives are very useful. A combination of lithium carbonate (2 gr.) with extract of nux vomica ($\frac{1}{6}$ gr.) given after meals is of special value. In attacks of lithæmic migraine a few doses of a mineral acid, it is claimed, will often cause the symptoms to disappear.—*Landet.*

THE MEDICAL BUCCANEER.—The latest development of the profession in the United States is the "buccaneer" physician. An American contemporary says it is of no use to talk about medical reform and elevating the profession, whilst the "buccaneer" is allowed full liberty to carry out his system of medical practice. "He plays his part in manifold ways. He often roams in high places, and may even wear a professor's gown. He looms up at medical conventions, and, indeed, may be an author of no mean position. He is always clamoring for reform; he wants to reform the code, let down the bars and clear the way, so that his pilfering career may be unhampered. His neighbor stands in mortal terror of him, because he well knows that should he be required to call him in consultation the new arrival would quickly oust him and coolly take possession himself. He performs impossible operations, and always cures every case, and the unsuspecting, simple minded, honest plodder, as he reads his statistics, is quite overcome with amazement and admiration. He has a sneaking way of advertising. To get into the regular column of the quacks would be to mix with the common herd; moreover, it is highly expensive; therefore he has himself interviewed, or one of his helpers will see to it that while the great man speaks, full stenographic notes are taken, and the thing, highly colored, will be spread broadcast in the early morning press." The genus is not altogether unknown in this country, but they are happily few in number and their field of work is extremely limited.—*Hosp. Gaz.*

TOBACCO AN ALLY OF TEMPERANCE.—James