

treatment fairly before each patient or his friends, and to advise its use in all cases where in the financial condition of the family will allow of it.

Statistics to date, so far as they are attainable, pronounce the treatment effective in the saving of life; but the usual liberal discount must be made in drawing conclusions from the reports of enthusiastic experimenters with new remedies.—*American Practitioner and News*.

PERNICIOUS ANÆMIA AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE.

Pernicious anæmia is not often met with during the first twenty five years of life, and a case observed by Dr. W. R. Gowers, of London, is therefore worthy of mention. The patient, a young man aged 21 years, seen February 19, presented the appearance of extreme chlorosis, the skin having the characteristic tint, the gums and conjunctivæ being very pale. He was feeble and readily rendered short of breath. The condition had come on gradually during the previous six months; before which time the patient had seemed in good health, though he had been delicate as a young child. The percentage of hæmoglobin was but a little over 30, and of red corpuscles only 25 per cent. Examination of the eyes showed numerous flamed-shaped hæmorrhages in each retina, and one or two, of more irregular shape, near the disc. Hæmorrhages had occurred a month previously. In spite of careful treatment the patient steadily failed. There was some elevation of temperature for a few days, and pyrexia returned on March 19th, when a large hæmorrhage occurred in the right eye. Vomiting set in, and the patient died on March 21st.

Such a case, says Dr. Gowers, lends itself to the current tendency to associate all sorts of diseases with specific organisms; but another hypothesis deserves consideration, viz., the failure of tissues soon after they complete their development, not unknown in other structures,—an inherent defect of vital endurance on the part of the blood-making tissues.—*British Medical Journal*, May 12, 1894.

MENINGITIS OF OBSCURE CAUSATION.

Dr. F. Carr Bottomley, of St. George's Hospital, London, in a study of this subject, arrives at the following conclusions: 1. It is difficult to say whether certain cases of meningitis have been due to tubercle or not. Meningitis may probably be tuberculous without any tubercles being visible in the meninges,—at any rate, to the naked eye. Bacteriology helps us to decide whether this has been the cause. 2. It is also difficult to decide whether certain cases are due to ear disease; the presence of signs of old or recent otitis media does not

necessarily show that the meningitis was secondary to this; bacteriology probably helps us to decide the question only in the case of old ear disease. 3. Some cases of meningitis following broncho-pneumonia and empyema are probably of a septic nature. 4. There is no evidence of Bright's disease being a cause of meningitis. 5. Idiopathic cases are characterized by the following points: (a) Both brain and spinal cord are frequently attacked, and spinal symptoms are common; these symptoms are rare in other varieties of meningitis which attack both brain and cord, if we consider retraction of the head to be not necessarily a spinal symptom. In some cases spinal appear before cerebral symptoms. (b) The duration of illness varies from one to four weeks, the variation depending mainly on the stage of the disease at which the cerebral membranes become affected. (c) Recoveries are fairly frequent. (d) The best treatment seems to consist in the administration of mercury and iodides. (e) The affection of the cerebral membranes may be either at the vertex or the base, or both. (f) The cases occur perhaps most frequently in the cooler part of the year. 6. There is some evidence for considering these cases to be associated with epidemic meningitis, and for considering that the cause of both may be the *diplococcus pneumoniae*.—*Practitioner*, June, 1894.

A CASE OF TÆNIA NANA IN A CHILD.

Dr. Rasch, of Bangkok, had under his care a girl of 7 years, in whom disturbances of digestion, combined with an insomnia which could not be accounted for, led him to suspect the possibility of helminthiasis. Examination showed the presence of oxyuris and the eggs of tænia. Male fern was administered, and a large quantity of white filaments, fifty or eighty in number and one or two centimetres in length, were passed, which proved to be the tænia nana. The child has never been out of Siam.

Tænia nana is rare in the human subject, but three or four cases having so far been reported by Billarz, of Cairo; Blanchard, of Belgrade; and Grassi, of Sicily.—*Deutsche medizinische Zeitung*, No. 13, 1894.

THE VALUE OF SUGAR AND THE EFFECT OF SMOKING ON MUSCULAR WORK.

As the result of a series of experimental researches in the Physiological Institute, Turin, upon this subject, Vaughan Harley has come to the following conclusions: 1. The periods of digestion as well as the kinds of food taken have a marked influence on voluntary muscular energy. 2. Irrespective of the influence of food, there is a periodical diurnal rise and fall in the power of performing muscular work. 3. More work can be done after