

AN EPITOME

OF

CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE.

Metastasis or Shifting Elimination as a Factor in Certain Skin Inflammations.—

Dr. Walsh believes that certain forms of dermatitis connected with abnormal conditions of the blood may be directly due to the elimination of irritating substances. Uric acid and the scarlatinal virus may be regarded as types of unusual substances circulating in the blood which are capable of causing inflammation of one or more of the channels of elimination. Uric acid in excess being highly damaging to the epithelium of excretory organs, is able to produce, besides dyspepsia, nephritis, bronchitis, some forms of dermatitis. Metastasis is often a marked feature in gout, a typical eczema sometimes occurring during an acute gouty attack, and disappearing under treatment with colchicum. The skin trouble may alternate with bronchitis

and asthma, or with diarrhoea. The scarlatinal poison, like uric acid, acts as an irritant upon the epithelium of excretory organs, and may cause dermatitis in addition to nephritis and inflammations of the respiratory and alimentary tracts. Dr. Walsh holds that if uric acid be excreted by the bowel, diarrhoea results; by the skin, dermatitis; by the kidney, nephritis; by the lung, bronchitis—these various inflammations being the result of excretory inflammation.—*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

Relapses in Typhoid Fever.—From a careful study of fifty consecutive cases of typhoid fever with relapse, obtained from the records of Guy's Hospital and from other data, Stewart (*Practitioner*, No. 309, p. 184) arrives at the conclusion that so-called relapses are genuine second attacks, presenting all the phenomena of the first attack and due to reinfection of the large intestine from the small. This reinfection is believed to generally take place at a definite period in the original attack and is probably effected by the passage of sloughs over healthy lymphoid follicles. Consti-

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