sive pus. The liver weighed five pounds and five ounces. From its cut surface a greyish-white infiltration could be squeezed out. This whitish fluid, as pointed out by Virchow and Böttcher in leucocythæmic cases, consisted of closely packed free nuclei and small cells. The naked eye appearance was remarkably purulent. Section of the kidney gave a somewhat similar material, which, however, more resembled thickened greenish pus. The lymphatic glands were not appreciably enlarged. I did not then examine the blood; but when I sent for some after a little time, the cadaver was removed to its final resting-place.

No reliable history of the case was obtainable. It was said that her circumstances were somewhat straightened; that she suffered hunger and privations at times; severe and prolonged trials for years. Her appearance was always cachectic. The pain in her side dated from a fall (uncertain) or some sudden exertion (?) months previously. It is probable that a fall was the starting-point in the displacement of this leukæmic spleen; and then that its own increasing weight, with that of the superincumbent enlarged liver, caused it to be jammed deeper and deeper into the pelvis, till gradual pressure on the sigmoid flexure ended in obstruction and death.

SALICYLIC ACID TREATMENT CONTRASTED WITH OTHER REMEDIES IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

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THE following observations are based upon 90 cases of acute rheumatism; 35 (uncomplicated) having been treated by remedies in use before salicylic acid, 55 treated by salicylate of soda or ammonia. The circumstances of the cases are alike in all.

I compare the two groups (1) with reference to the number of hours occupied by the temperature in dropping to 99°; (2) with reference to the respective stay in hospital.

1. In 35 cases treated by various remedies (uncomplicated) the average number of hours occupied in the temperature falling to 99° was 248; the extremes, 12 and 1,056 hours. The average stay in hospital (27 cases) was 39 days.

2. The cases treated by salicylate salt must be subdivided into (a) 43 cases in which the remedy acted successfully; and (b) 12 in which it failed; but, as in 4 the failure probably resulted from imperfect administration, the number of failures must be reduced to 8.

(a) In 43 successful cases, the average number of hours in temperature reaching 99° (39 cases) was 38; the extremes were 6 hours and 72. In 16 cases, it was 30 hours or fewer. The average stay in hospital (37 cases) was 38 days; the extremes, 10 days and 138. The reduction of the local symptoms, particularly of pain and heat, generally kept pace with the decline of temperature, or even anticipated it. In 20 cases, it is expressly stated that the relief of pain was effected within 24 hours; the same thing probably occurred in others. In 4, it began with the first dose. Hence, whilst the average residence in hospital was hardly lessened by the salicylic acid, the period was passed in comparative immunity from the symptoms of the disease. The duration of residence was determined by relapses, and also by the need of caution in guarding against their occurrence. Of the 43 cases of successful treatment, a relapse occurred in 11; a second in 4. In all, the relapse was brief and speedily controlled. The duration of the salicylate treatment strikingly attests the varied character of the disease. Taking 22 cases in which no relapse had occurred, the number of days during which the remedy had been given varied between 2 and 17. In two cases of relapse, the salt had been taken for 19 days.

(b) In 8 cases, the remedy failed. They were severe. The average residence in hospital (6 cases) was 75 days. One death occurred. Four patients were abnormally neurotic.

Accidents.—Of the 55 cases in which the salicylate salt was given, vomiting occurred in 9, chiefly after doses exceeding 10 grains. Delirium occurred in 6; in 2 it was protracted, but was free from alarming element; in 1 it was followed by death.

Two deaths have occurred whilst the patient was taking the medicine. One was in a boy, aged 15, of weak intellect, who had been taking ten grains every four hours with great relief, and without any sign of disagreement except slight vomiting for six days. After screaming through the night, without apparent cause, he died suddenly in the morning; temperature 99.6°. The lungs were highly oedematous, and much congested. The right auricle was gorged with blood. In the second case, a man of nervous temperament had taken ten grains every two hours for two days without relief. The dose was then doubled, and two days after was raised to 25 grains. The rheumatism was re-

lieved, and the dose was lowered to 12 grains on the same evening, and to 8 on the following morning. He had been depressed and delirious through the night. The delirium continued severely through the day, and he died suddenly in the night; the temperature, which had sunk to 100°, rising to 111.5° immediately before death. The right side of the heart was moderately full of dark tarry blood; considerable ecchymoses under the serous membranes.

Among the 43 successful cases are 5 of pericarditis, in all but 1 slight and of brief duration. In 3, it preceded the remedy; in 1, it was discovered on the day after commencement; in the fifth case, severe and ultimately fatal pericarditis set in three days after the rheumatic symptoms had been removed by the salicylate.

OBSTETRIC MEMORANDA.

PUERPERAL ZYMOSES.

A VERY painful case has, within the last few days, come under my notice, which illustrates many of the points ably laid down by Dr. Braxton Hicks in the JOURNAL of March 25th. Mrs. B., a lady, aged 26, was attended in her second confinement by her regular medical man, who was a friend of mine. For several days all went on well; then, all of a sudden, without any apparent cause, her temperature began to rise, and was soon between 104° and 105°. This condition caused my friend considerable anxiety, and an examination of the sanitary condition of the house—one in a row of new ones—was immediately made, with the result of finding sewer-gas pouring up from the sink in the scullery almost sufficient to blow out a candle held over it.

On the next evening, I believe it was, I was sent for in great haste to see the patient. I found her screaming at the top of her voice, and so violent that it was as much as several attendants could do to control her movements by force; in short, she was suffering from an attack of acute mania. By means of chloroform and hypodermic injections, we managed to quiet her, and I then had no difficulty in agreeing with my medical friend—who had diagnosed typhoid fever—as to the cause of these terrible symptoms, the typhoid spots on the abdomen being but too characteristic. The delirium lasted about eighteen hours, after which the patient became conscious and took nutriment well; but such was the fearful exhaustion caused by her condition as described above, that she sank slowly but surely, and eventually died in spite of every care and attention bestowed upon her. Now, surely, it is time the law took cognisance of cases like this. The poor young couple only removed into the abominable house at Christmas, and had they remained where they were, there is every reason to suppose that the wife would at this present moment have been alive and well. Surely something may be done in the way of compelling builders and landlords to produce a certificate from a surveyor or other competent person to the effect that their property is properly drained, previously to a new tenant going in. The public are more careful of their stables in as much as they relate to the health of their horses, than they are of the sanitary conditions of their houses.

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THERAPEUTIC MEMORANDA.

RECTAL ALIMENTATION.

IN the course of an able article on the above subject in the JOURNAL of March 25th, Dr. Tyson observes that the coating of cacao butter with which Mr. Slinger endeavoured to improve the appearance of my "nutrient suppositories" was calculated to interfere with their absorption. Whether this be correct or not, I may be allowed to mention, perhaps, that in consequence of a suggestion made to me by Dr. Tyson privately, the suppositories made by Mr. Slinger have now for some months been sent without any coating. The earlier attempts made under my directions were to a great extent failures, owing to the too great dryness of the suppository. The suppositories now made under improved methods are such that, without opium, 90 per cent. of them are retained and absorbed. Messrs. Slinger also make them with the addition of half a grain of extract of opium.

H. E. SPENCER, York.

SNAKE BITES IN THE PUNJAB.—During 1880 no fewer than 968 deaths were registered from snake-bite in the provinces of the Punjab, against 818 in 1879, and 752 in 1878. The deaths from hydrophobia show, unhappily, an enormous increase, the number of victims from this cause amounting to 107, against 69 in 1879; 286 deaths were caused by suicide, and 67 by wild beasts.