

across the chest, and thus food from the mouth is directly conveyed to the stomach.

At a meeting of the Academy of Medicine in Paris, Doctor Bouffe gave an interesting description of his method of treating anæmia by inter-muscular injection, for which he claims a complete success.

As for cancer and consumption "cures" their number is legion. A Polish engineer named Rychnowski has discovered a new gas called "electroid," which is being prescribed by the medical authorities at Cracow.

Before the Academy of Medicine in Paris, Dr. Livet stated that the result of experiments on consumptives is to prove that the most efficacious treatment yet discovered consists in hypodermic injection of a liquid composed of extracts from plants in Chili and Colombia, which have already been employed separately with fair success in Germany, Belgium, and the United States.

To the same institution Dr. Lucien le Roy made a communication that cancer is curable by the internal administration of arsenic and quinine employed simultaneously in therapeutic doses.

To say nothing of minor evils!

M. Metchnikoff has discovered why the human hair turns white, and one is, of course, not surprised to learn that there is a microbe in the case. According to M. Metchnikoff, "the colour of the hair is due to the presence of granules of coloured pigment, which is spread over the whole length of each hair."

As the pigment disappears the hair turns white, and as also there is no reason why the pigment should disappear, except by extraneous aid, M. Metchnikoff has invented the "pigmentophage," which takes its place in the dictionary of microbes as the one which feeds on the coloured pigments which make our Enilia's hair so red or golden.

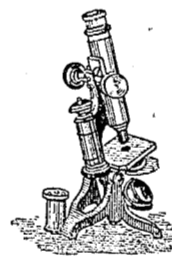
Kill the pigmentophage, says M. Metchnikoff, and the hair will retain its glory.

As for small-pox, what more is needed than "vaccine virus pills"? Anyway, an American homœopath will give a certificate stating that you have been vaccinated if you will only buy and swallow his pillules!

One just longs for the good old times when the microbe was a myth and one lived laborious days, eat and drank, and slept the sleep of the just, without all this fussy fear of disease and death!

Medical Matters.

PINTA.



Much interest has been aroused by Mrs. Alec Tweedie's description of Pinta, or Pinta, a disease from which she saw many natives suffering in Mexico during her recent visit. Our readers will, therefore, appreciate the following description of this disease, which is given by Dr. Patrick Manson, in his classical work on Tropical

Diseases.

Definition.—An epiphytic disease, characterised by peculiar pigmented patches on the skin.

Geographical Distribution.—In certain districts in tropical America—especially along the river banks, in Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, and one or two places in Peru, Chili, and Brazil—the district between Juciparana and the Santo Antonio rivers—there occurs an epiphytic skin disease, characterised by peculiar red or blue or black or white piebald spotting of the skin on a part, or on the whole of the body. The patient emits an offensive odour, sometimes compared to that of a mangy dog or of dirty linen. Desquamation and itching of the patches are also features of the disease. It entails no constitutional disturbance, and no danger to life. Like other epiphytic diseases, want of personal cleanliness has a great deal to do with the prevalence of pinta in the districts mentioned, for it is rare in cleanly whites or well-to-do negroes; the dirty Indians and the poor half-castes are those most frequently affected. In some districts it occurs in nearly a tenth part of the inhabitants. Lately a similar disease has been seen in North Africa.

Pinta commences at one or two points, the rest of the surface becoming infected in turn by extension or by auto-contagion. In the first instance, the hands or face, or some other exposed part, is attacked. The original patch may be white, red, blue, or black. It gradually increases in size, becoming scurfy, and itchy, particularly when the surface is warm. As the patches spread they assume a variety of shapes. Fresh spots appear in the neighbourhood of the parent spots, into which, in course of time, they tend to merge; so that ultimately large patches of discoloured skin are formed. The palms of the hands and the soles of the feet are not attacked. On the scalp becoming affected the hair turns white and thin, and ultimately falls out. When fully developed, the disease produces a very grotesque appearance. It is probable that the white patches

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)