

running nearly parallel to the right common iliac, and thus reached a normal termination at the right side of the base of the bladder.

The left supra-renal capsule was normally placed; the right lay against the right crus of the diaphragm at the usual level, and did not seem to be affected in the slightest degree by the absence of the corresponding kidney.

The generally received opinion as to the production of fused kidney is, I think, that each kidney is developed separately to a certain point, then the two come into contact for some unaccountable reason, and the lobules of the two unite. According to another view the organ is developed as one single mass, and at no time are the two kidneys separate.

There are a few points of peculiarity in the above case. First, the blood supply of the lower division of the mass—the right kidney—one of its arteries came from the right common iliac, and appeared to be dragged across from the right to the left side. Secondly, its ureter left the hilum in front of the vessels contrary to the usual arrangement. Lastly, the position of the hilum was that of the hilum of a right kidney reversed—namely, the hilum was near the right border instead of the left. These relations suggest a transference of the right kidney (with a rotation on its long axis) from the right to the left side of the vertebral column after its vascular connections had been established. They point decidedly to the first of the two theories mentioned above as the one which accounts for the condition of fused kidney most fully.

REGENERATION OF BONE.

ERNEST F. NEVE, M.D., from a careful examination of regenerating bone after subperiosteal resection, says (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, February, 1890) that “close investigation seems to show that, in some instances at any rate, cartilage cells become ossified *in situ* and transformed into active bone cells without any antecedent freeing and discharge of their nuclei to form osteoplastic cells.

PTOMAÏN POISONING.

DR. MARSH (*New York Med. Journal*, Nov. 9, 1889) says:—“It seems to me that future investigation will show that the contraction of the circular fibres of the colon, and the peculiar translucency of the intestines, together with hepatic infarction, constitutes true pathological evidence of ptomaïn poisoning.

certain evil effects counterbalanced any good that might be anticipated. Voisin, the author of a famous treatise on several diseases common to the insane—amenorrhœa, epilepsy, masturbation, lying, thieving, and moral insanity—was under the delusion that these diseases could be cured by its means. It was almost enough to overturn one's mental balance to broach the idea that moral depravity could be cured through the agency of hypnotism. As a warning of the danger of hypnotism, Heidenhain's first and favourite subject was his own brother—a fine, active, healthy young man, who, under the constant strain of hypnotic experiments, fell into a state of neurasthenia, became incapable of following his profession, and had to take a holiday of two years' duration before he recovered his mental tone. He had read a recent case in a German medical journal recording the details of a woman who fell into the hands of a hypnotic quack and was hypnotised into a state of acute confusional insanity.

DR. MORE MADDEN, in reply, said he was glad to find Dr. Conolly Norman concur in his views.

The Section adjourned.

L'ÉCHUJINE.

THE arrow-poison imported from Africa by Schinz is proven to belong to the *Adenium Böhmanum* (Schinz). It occurs in broken masses, odourless but bitter. K. Böhm has extracted two bodies from the crude mass—(1) "*l'échujor*," a resinoid substance, soluble in alcohol and ether, occurring in fine crystals, but inert; (2) "*l'échujine*," obtained in crystalline form in a precipitate by ether. It is soluble in alcohol and in water. The aqueous solution is neutral, and is precipitated by alcohol. Böhm considers that it is a glucoside, having the formula $(C_5H_8O_2)_n$. In its action it much resembles digitalin, than which it is more active. In toxic doses it produces in the frog violent contractions of the heart, and in dogs and rabbits convulsions, dyspnœa, and vomiting.—*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, No. 8, 6^e année.

RATIONAL TREATMENT OF FLAT-FOOT.

T. S. ELLIS describes (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, January, 1890) a rational method of treating flat-foot without the use of mechanical appliances. The chief principles are:—To make the patient vigorously spring on tiptoe, both as a special exercise and in walking; this raises the arch and relieves strain on ligaments; avoidance of continuous strain on ligaments, as in careless standing; avoidance of prolonged standing; low heels, flat soles not too thick, and no springs or supports to arch; giving free play to inward movement of great toe; never turning the toes out in walking; avoidance of fatigue.

PERISCOPE.

SURGICAL MORTALITY.

THE lessened mortality after operation in modern surgery is well shown in Mr. Polands statistics in Vol. XLV. of *Guy's Hospital Reports*, which are as follows :—

			1875-1886 per cent.	1860-1874 per cent.
Primary amputations	-	-	25·4	43·2
Secondary „	-	-	40·4	58·5
Pathological „	-	-	20·6	26·7
Expediency „	-	-	12·8	25·3

MIDWIFERY.

OF the 25,554 children born in Guy's Lying-in Hospital during the past ten years, the presentations were as follows :—

Vertex	-	-	24,590	=	96·22	per cent.
Vertex and hand	-	-	67	=	0·26	„
Breech	-	-	464	=	1·82	„
Foot or knee	-	-	224	=	·88	„
Face	-	-	80	=	·31	„
Upper extremity	-	-	35	=	·14	„
Transverse	-	-	17	=	·07	„
Brow	-	-	14	=	·05	„
Funis	-	-	63	=	·25	„

THE ANTISEPTIC TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

OF one hundred in-patients suffering from phthisis in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, treated by antiseptic instillations, 53 cases exhibited improvement by marked increase in weight, diminution in cough and expectoration, increase of appetite, sleep, and the like; and seven cases exhibited improvement, but without marked gain in weight. The *instillatio iodoformi* has appeared to be the most beneficial. The respirator used was the simple zinc one of Dr. Burney Yeo.

OREXIN.

OREXIN (*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, 8 Mars, 1890), a new synthetic chemical prepared by a German chemist, is not an antipyretic or hypnotic remedy, although it has a polysyllabic chemical title—phenyldihydrochinazolin. It is an appetiser, or “pick-me-up,” and its name is derived from *ὄρεξις*, appetite. Professor Penzoldt, of Erlangen, is reported to have good

results in thirty-six cases in which he tried it. Two to ten grain doses of the drug are said to stimulate appetite and promote digestion. It is soluble in 20 to 25 parts of water at 60° F.

USE AND ABUSE OF DRAINAGE TUBES.

R. J. GODLEE, F.R.C.S., sums up (*Practitioner*, February, 1890) the advantages and disadvantages of doing without drainage tubes, thus:— Without them the healing is more rapid, the scar is more uniformly linear, the chance of failing with the antiseptic element is much diminished. The disadvantages are—the temperature does not keep so absolutely normal, and there is the risk of blood or serum collecting under the flaps.

RHEUMATISM.

THOSE who suffer from rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, and joint affections will be interested in knowing that minute doses—half a drop—of the tincture prepared from the fresh leaf of the *Rhus Toxicodendron*, taken thrice daily, can be depended on to relieve their pains. Dr. Aulde's patients correctly describe its effects.—*Medical News*, Nov. 9th, 1889.

NEW PREPARATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC INVENTIONS.

Diuretin—"Knoll."

In April of the present year, Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, & Co. sent us a sample of theobromin-sodio-salicylate, to which the firm in question have given the shorter name, diuretin—"Knoll." Since then we have had an opportunity of testing the remedy in hospital practice, and it was of great value in 15-grain doses thrice a day, especially in a case of uræmia which threatened to prove fatal. Theobromin is related chemically and therapeutically to caffein—the correct chemical name of the latter being trimethyl-xanthin, while that of theobromin is dimethyl-xanthin. Theobromin is very sparingly soluble—1 part in about 1,600 parts of water—and is apt to cause slight nausea. Dr. Gram, of Copenhagen, as a result of therapeutical experiments conducted in the *clinique* of that city, found the most suitable form of administration to be the theobromin-sodio-salicylate, or "diuretin." It forms a white powder, which dissolves in less than half its weight of water when warmed, and remains in solution on cooling. It is of special use in affections of the kidneys and of the heart.

Caffyn's Liquor Carnis.

This novelty in the food market is described as consisting of the uncooked juice of meat, or muscle plasma, permanently preserved by the