

THYROID.

W. O. Woltke.—*Specific Therapy in Basedow's Disease.* "Deut. Ärzte. Zeitung.," 1908, Heft. 16 and 17.

The author reports nine cases which he treated with anti-thyroidine, that is, a serum obtained from animals in which the thyroid has been excised. In some cases also the milk of a goat was given in which the thyroid gland had been removed. The most marked effect that was observed was a diminution in the size of the swelling in the neck. The effect on the palpitation was not so great, and the degree of exophthalmos remained much the same. In nearly all the cases the body-weight increased very considerably. Of course relapses must be expected, and permanent results can only be looked for after a treatment extending over two or three years. A great disadvantage to this method of treatment is the expense involved in preparing the serum.

W. G. Porter.

EAR.

Cobb.—*The Menace of the Swimming Tank.* "Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.," July 2, 1908.

The author describes cases of ethmoiditis and acute otitis media directly caused by diving into the swimming tank, and considers they are not due to infection of nose, throat, or ear by contaminated water, but to putting the head under. Histories are given of three cases. [I have recently seen a case in which double aural furunculosis was directly traceable to the swimming bath; probably, therefore, infection from the water plays a not unimportant part in such cases.—M. Y.]

Macleod Yearsley.

Bourgeois, H.—*Otitic Thrombo-Phlebitis of the Cavernous Sinus; Recovery.* "Annales des Maladies de l'Oreille, du Larynx, du Nez, et du Pharynx," October, 1908.

A man, who had suffered since infancy from suppuration of the right ear, was seized with fever and violent pains of the corresponding side of his head. When seen by the author on August 9, 1907, he was very exhausted, answering questions badly, but the intellect was intact. The meatus was filled with pus; after cleansing, the drum-head was found to have been destroyed, and the tympanum crowded with bleeding granulations. The mastoid was very tender on pressure, especially so over the antrum, but there was neither œdema nor redness of the integument. A painful swelling was situated at the upper part of the sterno-mastoid on the same side. The eyes were proptosed, and the upper lids red and œdematous, the pupils were much dilated and sluggish; movements of the globes were extremely limited, especially in an outward direction. Rectal temperature, 38.6° C.; there had been no rigor. The case was diagnosed as one of thrombo-phlebitis of the cavernous sinus and sub-sterno-mastoid abscess. The radical mastoid operation was performed the same evening; the bone around the antrum was in a state of osteitis, extending to the petrous bone and lateral sinus. On freely exposing the latter its wall was seen to be thickened and grey; on incising it, blood flowed freely; there was no thrombosis. The cervical swelling was incised, pus absent. For three days following the operation there was a slight amelioration of the pains. The temperature oscillated between 38° and 39° C. On August 14 and the following day rigors occurred; tem-