

Stewart.—“American Journal of the Medical Sciences,” September, 1901.

Direct infection of a nurse from a consumptive patient is reported in the description of a case of acute splenic miliary tuberculosis. The patient was a young woman who had had no evidence of tubercular infection prior to her attendance upon a phthisical patient. The patient was in poor circumstances, and had apartments which were badly heated and damp, and the nurse's nourishment while attending him was of very poor quality. In the middle of her second week of attendance upon the case she became acutely ill, and died sixty-eight days later, the autopsy revealing a universal tubercular infection.

ŒSOPHAGUS.

Le Fort, René.—*A Coin in the Œsophagus.* “L'Echo Méd. du Nord,” July 7, 1901.

A child, three years old, had swallowed a coin seven days before being brought to hospital. Its health was excellent; external examination negative, but the X rays demonstrated the presence of a coin just above the sternum. An attempt was made, under chloroform, to extract the coin with a Kirmisson's coin-catcher, but without success; œsophagotomy was therefore performed, and the coin easily removed. After turning back the sterno-mastoid, cutting the omohyoid, and dragging the trachea and the thyroid gland forwards and the vasculo-nervous bundle outwards, the coin could be felt lying in the œsophagus by the finger. A short incision was made in the œsophagus, and the coin steadily and firmly pulled out with a pair of forceps. The mucous membrane of the œsophagus had commenced to ulcerate. The œsophageal wound was therefore left unstitched, and a large drainage-tube placed in contact with it, so as to insure thorough free drainage, the tube being gradually shortened as the wound healed from the bottom. Feeding from the first day by means of nasal catheter. Recovery uneventful.

Arthur J. Hutchison.

Poli, Camillo (Genoa).—*A Tracheoscopic Sign of Foreign Bodies in the Œsophagus.* Monograph from the “Bolletino della R. Acad. Med. Genova,” Anno XVI., No. 4.

The author describes a case in which a chicken-bone impacted in the œsophagus caused protrusion of the posterior wall of the trachea at the level of the sixth or seventh ring in the form of a hemispherical tumour. The obstruction was removed with the sound. The eighty years of the patient and other circumstances caused the introduction of the sound to be postponed until the tracheoscopic image demonstrated its necessity.

James Donelan.

E A R.

Alexander, G.—*Mastoid Operations under Schleich's Local Anæsthesia.* “Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift,” No. 33, August 15, 1901.

This method of obtaining anæsthesia was used in several cases where a general anæsthetic seemed inadvisable; the ages of the patients varied from seventeen to sixty-seven years, and the disease in the ear