

ABSTRACTS.

DIPHTHERIA, &C.

Abel (Greifswald).—*Experiment on the Influence of Winter on Diphtheria Bacillus*. "Centralbl. für Bacteriologie," 1895, page 345.

THE bacilli retain their virulence during the whole winter. Serum cultures were also efficient after 373 days. The cold has no influence on the cultures. *Michael*.

Adolph (Frankfurt-a-M.).—*Hundred Cases of Diphtheria treated by Behring's Heilserum*. "Deutsche Med. Woch.," 1896, No. 3.

OF one hundred cases, 20 died. Of these cases, 27 were tracheotomized, with 12 deaths. *Michael*.

Haegler.—*Remarks on Diagnosis of Diphtheria*. "Courszbl. für Schweizer Aerzt.," 1896, No. 2.

THE author prefers Loeffler's glycerinagar to all other methods of cultivating the bacilli, *Michael*.

Hewlett, R. T., and Nolan, Harold.—*Results of the Bacteriological Examination of One Thousand Suspected Cases of Diphtheria*. "Brit. Med. Journ.," Feb. 1, 1896.

THE objects of examination were one thousand consecutive specimens sent to the British Institute of Preventive Medicine for primary report. In five hundred and eighty-seven the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus was found; in four instances the verdict was doubtful. In a series of three hundred and fifty-three containing the bacilli, the latter were present in pure culture in two hundred and sixteen instances. The bacilli were "commonly" to be found two or three weeks after the attack, but in many cases considerably longer—notably in one instance, in which the bacilli were proved, by inoculation experiment, to be virulent twenty-three weeks after convalescence. Virulent bacilli—which, presumably, were accountable for a school epidemic—were found in the throat of a boy six months subsequent to an undiagnosed attack. *Ernest Waggett*.

Lemoine, A.—*Contribution to the Bacteriological Study of Non-Diphtheritic Anginas*. "Annales de l'Institut Pasteur," Vol. IX., No. 12.

THE author has employed a special technique. Before taking the culture he washes the throat with sterilized water, dries with sterilized cotton, and cauterizes superficially with the tip of a pipette. From the middle of the eschar, and, subsequently, from the centre of the tonsils, he takes the products to be cultivated. This proceeding gives a notable difference in results to the simple collection of liquids at the surface of the tonsils.

The author has examined one hundred and sixty-eight cases of anginas.

1. One hundred and twelve scarlatinas; seventy-four pseudo-membranous, thirty-eight erythematous.
2. Six in measles.
- . Three in mumps.
4. Twenty-nine cases of non-diphtheritic pseudo-membranous anginas.

5. Fourteen simple anginas, without pseudo-membranes.

6. Three cases of chronic amygdalitis, one with subsequent suppuration.

In these three last cases they found bacillus coli, or bacillus similar to bacillus coli.

In the one hundred and sixty-eight cases the streptococcus has been constantly found, most frequently associated with other microbes when the cultures were made with the products of the surface of the tonsils. In the cases done with the liquid aspirated from the interior of the tonsils (one hundred and forty-two cases) streptococcus was associated with staphylococcus eleven times; with bacillus coli five times. In the cultures from superficial parts (twenty-three cases) streptococcus was alone twelve times; associated with staphylococcus, six times; with bacillus coli, three times; with pneumococcus and bacillus coli, twice.

Anginas in general are a manifestation of streptococcal disease, like erysipelas, puerperal fever, etc.; and, in the occurrence of grave forms, Rogers' and Marmorek's serum is indicated.

A. Cartaz.

Martin, Louis.—*Intubation of the Larynx; Indications, Technique, etc.* "Bull. Méd.," 1895.

SOME illustrations make the description easy, clear, and interesting. The author insists on the care of the patient after operation and washings of the mouth and fauces. The tubage must be employed by preference to tracheotomy, especially since the employment of serumtherapy.

In five hundred and twenty-six cases of diphtheria the intubation has been necessary seventy-two times, with only seventy-six deaths. Three times tracheotomy was necessary, the tubage being impossible.

Martin relates two cases of severe diphtheria with broncho-pneumonia which were cured by simultaneous injections of Roux's and Marmorek's serum.

A. Cartaz.

Martin, Sidney, and Smith, H. R.—*Cases of Diphtheria treated with Antitoxin at University College Hospital.* "Brit. Med. Journ.," Jan. 25, 1896.

AN important communication, containing tables of comparative statistics too long for full review here. The figures show a very marked decrease of mortality, under the antitoxin treatment, in laryngeal cases, and more particularly among those which came under treatment early in the disease. Occurrence of rash, persistence of bacilli, cause of death, onset of paralysis, and other similar points of interest are fully dealt with.

Ernest Waggett.

North, Gaston.—*Micrococcus Brison. A Contribution to the Study of Diphtheria.* "Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.," Jan. 23, 1896.

GIVES the characteristics of this organism, and points out that when associated with the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus it invariably points to a favourable termination of the case; and raises the question as to whether it may possibly act like the bacillus coli with Eberth's bacillus in inhibiting the virulence.

St George Reid.

Pope, E. M.—*Feeding under Chloroform in Diphtheritic Paralysis.* "Brit. Med. Journ.," June 15, 1895.

THE case of a patient, greatly emaciated, with paralysis of diaphragm and regurgitating all food. Fed with the tube under chloroform with good result.

Ernest Waggett.

Schauz (Dresden).—*Etiology of Diphtheria.*

THE author believes that Loeffler's bacillus does not alone produce diphtheria, but that under certain (*sic*) circumstances this bacillus becomes virulent and pathogenic.

Michael.

Schlesinger (Berlin).—*Leucocytosis in Diphtheria*. "Archiv. für Kinderheilk.," Bd. 19, Heft 5, 6.

IN cases of diphtheria the author found an increase of the leucocytes; in favourable cases the hyper-leucocytosis diminishes; in grave cases it remains till death. By application of heilserum the author could observe a decrease of the hyper-leucocytosis. Details and tables illustrate this thesis. *Michael.*

Stokes, W. R.—*The Bacteriological Examination of Nine Autopsies on Cases of Diphtheria treated with Antitoxin*. "Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.," Dec. 12, 1895.

THE author deals with the question of the general infection of the system, in some cases of diphtheria, with various pathogenic organisms, and the advisability of dividing cases into two forms: cases of simple infection by the diphtheria bacillus, and cases of mixed infection with one or more pathogenic cocci. He refers to numerous instances where pyogenic bacteria were found in various internal organs—heart, spleen, kidneys, etc.—after death, and suggests the possibility of the failure of antitoxin in some cases being due to this form of poly-infection. He insists on the necessity of the early administration of antitoxin in order to lessen the danger of secondary infection, and to render the system more capable of overcoming the effects of the various complicating bacteria present in the body.

StGeorge Reid.

Sudeck (Hamburg).—*On the Existence of Diphtheroid Bacilli in the Air*. Festschrift des aertzlichen Vereins in Hamburg, 1896.

By careful examination the author found in the air of the Hamburg Hospital, and not only in the diphtheria wards, bacilli similar to those of diphtheria. Inoculation in guinea-pigs showed that some of the cultures were virulent; in other cases virulence could not be found. *Michael.*

Wieland.—*Serum Treatment of Diphtheria in the Basler Children's Hospital*. Medizin. Gesellschaft in Basel, Meeting, 12 Sept., 1895.

Of 109 cases, 25 per cent. died; of operation cases, 26.9 per cent. died, 59 per cent. before application of serum. The author recommends the treatment.

Michael.

NOSE AND NASO-PHARYNX.

Ballenger, W. L.—*Electrolysis as a Treatment for Deviations, Spurs, and Ridges of the Nasal Septum*. "Journ. Am. Med. Assoc.," Jan. 11, 1896.

AFTER a detailed statement of principles involved in electrolysis, the writer gives a tabular report of twenty-one cases upon which he operated by this method. His conclusions are: (a) The results are favourable in most cases, but the method is neither so simple nor so sure as the usual surgical means. (b) It should be limited to those cases in which it is impossible to carry out surgical treatment, either on account of the disinclination or disability of the patient. (c) Electrolysis requires an experienced specialist to carry it out. (d) Cartilage yields more readily than bone. (e) Osteoma are more easily removed than normal bone. (f) Only growths of small size are successfully removed by electrolysis. (g) Perforation and sloughing result from the use of too powerful or too prolonged current. (h) Ten to twenty-seven milliamperes of current were used for a time, varying from twelve