

of which was as hard as cartilage. The mass was shelled out of its connective-tissue capsule, its several attachments were ligated and it was removed. An opening was made in the loin for drainage. On histologic examination, the growth was found to be a sarcoma, with round and spindle cells, mixed here and there with well-formed glandular tissue. The further course of the case was uncomplicated, and the patient was dismissed, cured, after rather more than a month. Several months later, however, symptoms of tuberculosis made their appearance, and after the lapse of some months more, death occurred. On post-mortem examination the lungs were found full of minute tubercles, and the mesenteric glands were enlarged and caseous, but there was no local recurrence of the new growth.

IMMUNIZING VALUE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

The antitoxin of diphtheria has now been on trial for nearly six years, and the early claims for its efficacy have not proved at all extravagant. According to the general consensus of opinion, based on cold logical statistics on an enormous scale, the mortality of the disease has been halved, reduced in fact from 40 to 20 per cent., and lower. Severe cases have been transformed into mild ones, operation has been avoided in many cases in which it would otherwise probably have been necessary, and cases in which operation has been performed have pursued a more favorable course than heretofore. The antitoxin has been shown to possess also distinct immunizing value, as has been demonstrated in the suppression of numerous epidemics. This prophylactic employment of the antitoxin has not yet received the general application that its utility makes it deserving of, and an earnest plea for the more extended use of the antitoxin for immunizing purposes is made by J. S. Billings, Jr.,¹ who points out that since the introduction of the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria in New York in 1896 there has been a steady reduction in both the number of cases of and the number of deaths from diphtheria each year to Jan. 1, 1899. During the latter year, however, both the number of cases and the number of deaths have increased. The records of the New York Department of Health show further that the antitoxin was used in a larger number of cases in 1899 than in 1898 and with as good or even better results. On the other hand, there has been a reduction in the number of cases in which immunizing injections of the antitoxin were made. H. M. Biggs, director of the bacteriologic laboratories of the New York Department of Health, has reported that of 3100 individuals immunized with antitoxin, but nine contracted diphtheria and these in a mild form. In the latter a minimum dose of antitoxin—150 units—was employed, and it is thought probable if a larger amount—from 300 to 500 units—had been used the immunization would have been perfect. There were reported during 1899, in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, 682 secondary cases of diphtheria in which the disease was contracted after twenty-four hours from an original case in the same family. It is computed that if the antitoxin had been employed to immunize these cases the total number of cases of diphtheria for 1899 would have been 7558

instead of 8240, and thus actually a smaller number than in 1898; and the number of deaths would likewise have been reduced from 1087 to 1026. Further, many secondary cases developed a week or more after the primary ones, so that if immunization were practiced with the desired thoroughness many additional cases and deaths would have been prevented.

FREQUENCY OF URETHRAL FILAMENTS IN URINE OF MEN.

The presence of filaments or threads in the urine has long been looked on as indicative of the existence of chronic gonorrhoea in men, although it is a matter of dispute whether they are related to the intensity of the morbid process. By some, it is believed that so long as these structures are present, recrudescence is possible, and treatment should accordingly be directed toward their disappearance; while others consider them only as the evidence of a residual urethritis, so long as gonococci can not be demonstrated. Assuming that purulent flocculi persist for a varying time after an attack of gonorrhoea, Brauser¹ made careful examinations of the urine in 300 patients admitted to a purely medical service, with the object of determining the frequency with which gonorrhoea in men occurred in the community. The patients were between 60 and 70 years of age, and none was included in whom the possibility of a genito-urinary discharge due to other causes was present. In nine cases a discharge was found, and in fifteen more the first urine was turbid and purulent flocculi were present. A drop of secretion was present at the urethral meatus in about twenty-seven cases. Of the entire 300 cases, no flocculi whatever were found in 54—18 per cent.; only epithelial cells and shreds of mucus in 44—15 per cent.; filaments of mucus, epithelial cells and isolated pus-corporules in 39—13 per cent.; and purulent filaments in 163—54 per cent. It thus appears that more than one-half of those examined presented positive evidence of existing inflammation of the lower segment of the genito-urinary apparatus, probably the residuum of a previous acute inflammatory process. The proportion at certain periods of life was found greater than for the whole number. Thus, between the ages of 26 and 30, it was 75 per cent.; between 36 and 40, 70 per cent.; and between 31 and 35, 60 per cent. These are the years during which gonorrhoea is most common. Of the 300 cases a history of previous gonorrhoea at varying intervals was obtained in but 36; but it is notorious that little reliance can be placed on statements in this connection. In spite of the greatest care, gonococci, however, were found positively in only ten cases, while in four others the conditions were merely suspicious.

EXPERIMENTS ON HUMAN BEINGS.

Senator Gallinger, the ostensible sponsor of the antivivisection bill, already noticed in *THE JOURNAL*, has introduced another bill in the Senate which is in some respects remarkable. It is entitled "A Bill for the Regulation of Scientific Experiments upon Human Beings in the District of Columbia," and prohibits, under heavy penalty, all experimentation on human beings "involving pain, distress, or risk to life and health, whether by ad-

¹ N. Y. Med. Jour., Feb. 17, 1900: *THE JOURNAL*, March 3, '7, p. 550.

¹ Deutsches Archiv. f. Klin. Med., Bd. lvi, p. 618.

ministration of poisonous drugs for the purpose of ascertaining their toxicity, by inoculating the germs of disease, by grafting cancerous tumor into healthy tissues, or by performance of any surgical operation for any other object than the amelioration of the patient, except subject to the restriction and regulations hereinafter described." These restrictions and regulations are similar to those proposed for scientific vivisection, except that the intended victim must be of sound and consenting mind and give his written permission, duly sworn to and attested, and then if the commissioners are satisfied as to these facts and as to the purpose of the experiments, and that the risk does not involve danger to life, they may grant the permission, provided reports are duly made to them of the results. This law, so far as one knows, is a gratuity to physiologic experimenters, none of them having asked for this legalizing of human experimentation, and one finds it difficult to recall a parallel to it in legislation, all the more as its concluding section reads "that nothing in the act contained shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any experiments whatever made by medical students, physicians, surgeons, physiologists, or pathologists upon one another." (Italics ours.) If it had not gone through the regular process of reading and reference in the usual way in that sedate and dignified body, the United States Senate, it would pass for an attempt at a first-class joke by the antivivisectionists. Senator Gallinger, however, is not the consciously humorous member of the Senate, and it would appear possible that it might have been introduced by him in good faith. But we can not altogether resist the suggestion that some humorist has been making a cat's paw of him. It is just possible that he may have offered it to hedge on the chances of the other, the zoophile Gallinger bill—a sort of tub to the whale of medical opinion. If that is the way his intellect works, he ought to be speedily enlightened.

Medical News.

DR. WM. N. BEGGS succeeds the late Dr. Axtell as editor and publisher of the *Colorado Medical Journal*, Denver.

THE DAILY school inspection has been so successful in its results in Milwaukee, Wis., that it is said the common council will pass an ordinance making provision for it as a permanent city institution.

THROUGH the efforts of the Roanoke Hospital Association, backed by the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, Roanoke, Va., is to have a hospital. The building, near Crystal Springs, is to be completed in ninety days.

THREE PUBLIC school teachers in Fort Dodge, Iowa, recently submitted to the compulsory vaccination ordered by the school board and immediately thereafter went home and washed off the virus. In one case, however, the vaccination was a success.

DR. E. BRETSCHNEIDER, of St. Petersburg, has been awarded the gold medal of the Russian Geographical Society, for his works on China, especially his "History of European Botanical Discoveries in China." He was medical attendant of the Russian embassy at Peking for seventeen years.

THE AUTHORITIES, according to *Presse Med.* of February 21, have ordered large and repeated doses of anti-tetanus serum to be administered in every case of declared tetanus that occurs in the French army. The order states that experience has demonstrated that the injections have a favorable effect in many cases.

IN OSHKOSH, Wis., examination of a number of milk tickets which have been in circulation for considerable time has revealed germs of diphtheria, etc. An order has been given that after March 15 only punch tickets shall be used, the purchaser buying them and having the quantity of milk taken punched out with each delivery.

THE COMMITTEE entrusted with the task of compiling a Codex Medicamentarius for the Argentine Republic has completed its work. The *Archives de la Polyclinica* states that it is remarkable for the completeness of its descriptions, particularly in regard to the microscopic structure of the vegetable substances used in medicine and pharmacy.

THE SECRETARY of the Territorial Board of Health of Oklahoma has sent out a bulletin giving the facts and diagnostic points of chicken-pox and smallpox, as a guide to the local health officers and the public in aiding to suppress the existing epidemic of mild smallpox. It emphasizes the necessity of the observance of the most stringent precautions in every case of eruptive disease, and in particular those that have any resemblance to chicken-pox or smallpox.

THE FRENCH Government has created a new title, which confers the title of "Doctor of Pharmacy" on druggists who have passed a certain examination. The *Jour. de Med. de Paris* deplores the confusion that will necessarily result: "The public is always ready to believe that druggists are more than half physicians, and will be still more inclined to apply to them for prescriptions when the sign bears the title of Dr.—much to the detriment of the medical profession."

IN A recent address in the German Chamber of Deputies, Bosse commented on the high mortality among younger members of the university faculties in Germany, which—under 30 years of age—is three times the normal death-rate. He attributes it to the privations that many have undergone in obtaining their education, sapping their strength, and the strain of teaching twenty-two to twenty-four hours a week, with the efforts necessary to maintain the prestige of wisdom and experience expected of university instructors. After 30 the mortality rate is lower than the average.

A REPORT states that in the Prussian Diet, March 6, Baron v. Pappenheim referred to the claim that Professor Neisser of Breslau had inoculated persons with a certain loathsome disorder in order to establish immunity, previously noted in THE JOURNAL, and arraigned the medical profession generally for experimenting on human beings. Representatives of all the other parties indorsed the views of the speaker. Professor Virchow, however, came to the rescue, and stated that Professor Neisser only went too far in not obtaining the patient's consent, and further stated that without experimentation on living animals serum therapeutics would be impossible. The case against Professor Neisser was barred by the statute of limitation.

MEDICINES AS BEVERAGES.—The United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that the special tax of a rectifier and liquor dealer is not required to be paid for the manufacture and sale of blackberry