

**THE BACILLUS OF DIPHTHERIA.**

SOME French observers have devoted considerable attention to the life history of this bacillus, and have proved beyond dispute a very important fact to which previous observers in this country have called attention. They have shown that for some weeks after the typical membrane of diphtheria has disappeared from the fauces, the bacillus of the disease persists on the mucous membrane of the mouth and nose of the patient. In one case, for example, these observers found the bacillus in a patient who had apparently been convalescent for more than a month, and precisely at the same time the sister of the patient was attacked by diphtheria. The bacillus was found most frequently upon the mucous membrane of the nose, and does not appear to live for so prolonged a period in the throat passages. The conclusion, therefore, is that whatever the treatment adopted may be, the bacillus of diphtheria may, and perhaps will, persist on the mucous membrane of the mouth and throat of the patient for three or four weeks, and for a month or six weeks upon the nasal membrane, after he is apparently cured of his illness. This should never be forgotten, because it explains on the one hand the fact that patients undoubtedly communicate the disease long after they seem to be themselves convalescent from it, and on the other hand, that some people are attacked by diphtheria at a considerable interval after their exposure to infection.

**THE CLIMATE OF BOLIVIA.**

ATTENTION has been drawn in the papers to the value of residence in Bolivia for patients who are suffering from commencing consumption. It is stated that the air is so highly rarefied and dry, that it kills the tubercle bacilli; the length of time required depending upon the stage the disease has attained. Patients in the first or second stage, it is said, are completely cured after a short sojourn, but those in whom the disease is far advanced, would probably have to remain for a lengthened period. At present this information is derived from the Consul General of Bolivia, whose evidence, therefore, cannot be considered as altogether unbiassed; and it would be necessary that medical statistics should be furnished, proving the above assertions beyond dispute before the profession in this country would feel justified in recommending many of their patients to undertake so long and expensive a journey.

**Hospital Sunday Fund.**

A MEETING of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund was held on Monday, at the Mansion House, when Sir Sydney Waterlow presided.

"The report of the Committee of Distribution recommended awards to 179 institutions, being an increase of 74 since the first awards in 1873. The amount available for distribution, after allowing for liabilities and current expenses, was £44,410. A sum of £2,150 was set apart to purchase surgical appliances. The Committee had this year had occasion to question the administration of 25 institutions. Each had been given the opportunity of sending a deputation in conference, but in many cases the objections raised were settled by correspondence. Twelve deputations were, however, seen. Three institutions, not having published their accounts on the uniform system agreed, were ineligible. One General Hospital had no award recommended, the committee not being satisfied that its Council or Governing Body had been duly elected. Another had no award, the Committee not being satisfied with its general administration. One so-called 'Hospital' having no beds received no award. Another old-established Hospital was found to be in no present need. One Convalescent Home, where the charge for maintenance of patients was deemed excessive, had only a small award recommended. One dispensary, having its accounts largely involved in mission work, was recommended only so far as the medical department was concerned, and on the understanding that, in future, the financial statement should show the dispensary and the mission work separately. The result of other interviews would, the Committee hoped, lead to improvement in the future, but, for the present, they could only recommend awards in slightly reduced amounts.

The awards were as follows:—

General Hospitals.—Charing Cross Hospital, £1,050; French Hospital, £410; German Hospital, £605; Great Northern Central Hospital, £375; Guy's Hospital, £700; Hampstead Hospital, £110; Italian Hospital, £80; King's College Hospital, £1,600; London Hospital, £3,750; London Homoeopathic Hospital, £140; London Temperance Hospital, £700; Metropolitan Hospital, £500; Miller Hospital and Royal Kent Dispensary, £260; North-West London Hospital, £380; Poplar Hospital, £405; Royal Free Hospital, £900; St. George's Hospital, £1,500; SS. John and Elizabeth Hospital, £100; St. Mary's Hospital, £2,000; Seamen's Hospital Society, £920; Middlesex Hospital, £2,150; University College Hospital, £1,300; West Ham Hospital, £270; West London Hospital, £600; Westminster Hospital, £1,150.

Special Hospitals.—City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, £1,020; Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, £1,610; North London Consumption Hospital, Hampstead, £360; Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, £400; Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, £300; Alexandra Hospital for Hip Disease, W.C., £180; Barnet Hospital, £40; Belgrave Hospital for Children, S.W., £160; Cheyne Hospital for Incurable Children, S.W., £150; East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E., £500; Evelina Hospital for Sick Children, Southwark, S.E., £450; Home for Incurable Children, Maida Vale, W., £70; Home for Sick Children, Sydenham, S.E., £150; Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., £800; North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, N.E., £300; Paddington Green Hospital for Children, W., £150; Victoria Hospital for Children, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W., £600; 'The Vine,' Sevenoaks, £30; British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., £40; City of London Lying-in Hospital, City Road, E.C., £80; Clapham Maternity Hospital, £20; East End Mothers' Home, £60; General Lying-in Hospital, Lambeth, S.E., £60; Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Maryle-

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