

Annotations.

BACTERIA IN DAILY LIFE.

The fight between benevolent and malevolent bacteria is a theme of absorbing interest, as has recently received demonstration in Mrs. Frankland's interesting work on bacteria in daily life. The extirpation of harmful by harmless microbes is a subject which has of recent years engaged the attention of experts, and the principle seems a sound one.

It is startling to learn that the milk consumed in large cities is often richer in bacteria than its sewage, yet this appears to be borne out by facts. The danger of unsterilised milk is now beginning to be appreciated by the public, for it is well authenticated that enteric fever and diphtheria can be disseminated by its means, while the reduction of infant mortality by the use of sterilised milk has been abundantly demonstrated. The destruction of bacteria which cause definite diseases, as well as the maintenance of health, so that the human system may withstand their ill-effects in the event of their obtaining access to it, is the problem which confronts scientists at the present time.

A MINOR AILMENT.

Measles used to be considered one of the minor ailments of childhood, but it is alleged that the disease is now changing its type and can no longer be classified in this category. On the representation of the School Board for London, whose children are absenting themselves in increasing numbers from "measles," the County Council has decided, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, to enforce, with regard to measles, certain sections of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. In future, with the exception of the removal to hospital by order of a justice, it is proposed to apply to measles the rules now enforced with regard to small-pox, cholera, diphtheria, scarlet, puerperal, and enteric fever, and erysipelas. It is hoped to avoid the spread of an epidemic by practising increased precautions as to disinfecting infected premises, and by prohibiting the exposure of infected persons, and the conveyance of infected persons in public conveyances. The London County Council is to be congratulated on adopting this line of action.

As two years ago 1,952 deaths were reported from measles in London alone, it is time that effective measures for dealing with the disease were enforced.

Medical Matters.

A NEW INVENTION.



It is announced that Dr. Sachs, a Vienna oculist, has invented an apparatus by which the whole dark inner-part of the eye can be illuminated. The invention marks a great advance in science, and in many cases renders superfluous Helmholtz's *speculum oculi*. The new apparatus was explained at the last sitting of the Society of Vienna Physicians.

THE SCARLATINA BACILLUS.

The following account of the discovery of the scarlatina bacillus has been published by Professor Baginsky, Director of the Emperor and Empress Frederick Hospital for Infantile Diseases at Berlin:—"Dr. Aronson, Head of the Laboratory at the Schering Works, and formerly an assistant in this hospital, has succeeded in cultivating a serum which affords a certain protection for animals against scarlatina poison. The cures attempted with this serum, in the case of patients suffering from scarlatina, seem, even if we are cautious in our judgment, not unsuccessful, and we look to the future with good hope of also being able to put a check to this frightful scourge of the infant world."

VARIETIES OF DRUNKENNESS.

Mr. Lucien Mayet, in *Gaillard's Medical Journal*, divides drunkenness into three categories: "normal, abnormal, and pseudo-drunkenness."

1. *Normal*.—In individuals usually sober and of sound constitution, who fall victims to acute poisoning, the intensity of which is in direct ratio with the quantity of beverages consumed. During the first period there is a slight excitation of the intellectual functions; during the second, under the prolonged influence of the libations, there is incoherence and inaptness of thought, and the subject becomes confidential; hence the proverb "*in vino veritas*." At times there are illusions, seldom hallucinations, affecting the senses of sight and hearing. During the third period intellectual depression increases, the drinker becomes comatose, the sphincters are relaxed, and the temperature decreases.

2. *Abnormal*.—The various phases may be modified according to the reaction produced on

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