

## Medical Matters.

### RADIUM TREATMENT FOR CANCER.



Great interest has been excited in medical circles in Vienna by a report emanating from the clinic of Prof. Gussenbauer, who died only a few weeks ago, to the effect that a man sixty-one years of age, who had long been suffering from cancer of the palate and lip, and had undergone several operations without any lasting success, has been cured by the new radium rays. The seat of the disease was exposed to light of the strongest preparation of radium existing—radium bromide from Brunswick. The effect was surprising. The tumour completely disappeared as the result of the application. The report was communicated to the Vienna Society of Physicians, and also presented at a meeting of the Imperial Academy of Science, at which the doctors reported the cure by radium rays of one case of melanoma and several cases of red mole.

### COMMUNICABILITY OF TUBERCULOSIS.

From Berlin comes the news that Professor Kossel, of the Imperial Health Office, read a paper at a meeting of the Berlin Medical Society upon the results of the work done by the Tuberculosis Commission in connection with the investigations made by Professors Koch and Schuetz. Professor Kossel summed up the results of a series of experiments as proving that tuberculosis in the human being can be communicated to cattle, and *vice versa*. The practical question—namely, which communication was the more frequent and how great was the danger attaching to it—remained, however, still undecided.

### BACTERIOLOGY OF SCARLATINA.

A series of experiments have been made by Dr. G. H. Weaver with reference to the bacterial flora of this disease. Cultures were made from the material upon the surface of the tonsils as early in the disease as possible, and from the skin before and after desquamation. The author's observations lead to the following conclusions:—(1) The bacteria obtained from cultures from the skin, epidermic scales, and the surface of the tonsil in cases of scarlatina are the same as those found in the same locations in health, and no one of them is constantly present except the streptococcus in the

throat. (2) Because of the numerous cocci which grow in such cultures, and which appear in groups of two or four or bunches of the same under the microscope, it is impossible to identify them except by a complete study in pure culture. (3) Cultures made by inexperienced persons, or by those who do not fully appreciate the importance of avoiding the tongue, are especially apt to contain large diplococci or sarcinae. (4) The streptococcus is present upon the tonsil of scarlatinal patients in enormous numbers in almost all cases.

### ANTI-TOXINE FOR CHOLERA INFANTUM.

The interest in anti-toxines and serum therapy which is so prevalent just now is very active among those in the shadow of Johns Hopkins Hospital, writes C. C. Von B. in the *Johns Hopkins Alumnae Magazine*, because of the prominence into which Dr. Flexner has come through his new discovery. Some who have been interested in this work will remember that there were strenuous efforts made last summer at the Wilson Sanatorium to find some cure or relief for the dread cholera infantum, which carries off such a multitude of little ones during the warm months. It was decided that Shiga's bacillus, the cause of epidemic dysentery among adults, was also accountable for cholera infantum, and the possibility of an anti-toxine being made which would cure this malady, in the same way that diphtheria has been so successfully treated, precipitated investigations which will probably result in the saving of many infant lives. The death of John Rockefeller McCormick of cholera infantum prompted his grandfather, John D. Rockefeller, to give 200,000 dols. to be spent in searching for a cure for this deadly "summer complaint."

In the laboratories, where investigations are being furthered and serums made, workers are to be seen in surgeon's attire—white clothes, caps, and shoes. The interiors of laboratories and stables are coated with white enamel, and all other details are ideally hygienic. The horses to be used in preparing anti-toxine are, upon their arrival at these unique stables, given injections of mallein, which seems to accentuate symptoms of any disease from which they may be suffering. If the results of these injections are negative, the subjects are deemed eligible for further experimental use. Cultures containing the desired organism are introduced into bouillon, which has previously been carefully

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