

Until such appointments are made, I can see no possibility of the radical change in the wards of our smaller Infirmaries to which we all look forward.

We want for Infirmary Nursing women of culture, who care more for the human than the scientific side of their work. It is often monotonous, fraught with difficulty and much discouragement; we find ourselves continually hindered by the very people whom we expected to help us; but it has immense compensations."

Medical Matters.

TETANUS ANTITOXIN.



Two important cases of the treatment of tetanus by its antitoxin were published last week in a contemporary. In the first case, the symptoms of tetanus did not commence until ten days after the infliction of a severe injury to the hand, and the patient did not go into a hospital until the twenty-third day after the injury. He was then given injections every day of antitoxin, the usual amount injected being about 34 grains. Together with this, chloral was given every eight hours, and the patient appears to have held his ground for a week and then to have steadily recovered. In the other case, the injections were given at very irregular intervals, comparatively seldom, and in smaller doses, and the patient lived for eleven days after the onset of the disease. The moral would seem to be that the injections of this remedy, when employed at all, should be administered at least twice a day and in full strength. Considering the almost invariable fatality of this disease, it is not too much to say that heroic remedies are necessary, or that, when the remedy is found, it requires to be given in heroic doses.

A PATENT DISCOVERY.

In this country, it is a recognised aphorism that medical men who pursue science and make discoveries in medical treatment are bound in honour to regard those discoveries as made for the benefit of mankind, and not for their own aggrandisement. It is in the highest degree honourable to the medical profession that such a position should have been assumed and maintained by its followers, because in no other calling would it be considered that the man who made a valuable discovery should be bound to impart it without reward to others.

The chemist who extracts a new dye or discovers a new method of extracting gold from the quartz, the engineer who invents a new gun metal, or even the pharmacist who prepares a palatable form of an old drug—each and all of them hasten to procure patents so as to preserve to themselves the full pecuniary advantages of their discovery. Medical men, alone, who ascertain a remedy by which tens of thousands of their fellow creatures can be relieved or cured, and for the administration of which every one will expect to pay his own doctor, make their discovery open and free to all the world. This always appears to commercial minds to be eminently unbusinesslike, and a German savant is evidently of the same opinion, for it is announced that Dr. Aronson, of Berlin, who has discovered a method of separating antitoxin from serum, has applied for an English patent to protect his process. A medical contemporary is very angry at this, and undoubtedly the proposal traverses the custom and medical ethics prevalent in this country. But as a matter of simple justice we cannot complain, however much we may disapprove. The shrewd German knows that the English will value his preparation all the more because they have to pay for it, and he cannot be expected to realise in its full beauty all the advantages of our free trade. We are sorry for the poor for whom the new remedy will become so much the more expensive. We are even more sorry for the middle classes, to whom the remedy will become perhaps inaccessible, for they cannot, like the poor, depend either upon the rates or the charitable to provide for them in sickness. And we are sorry for Dr. Aronson, because, although he may obtain his patent and may make money, he will inevitably fall very considerably in the estimation of his professional brethren.

THE MODERN TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

It is a matter of great encouragement to medical science that such good results are often gained now in the treatment of cases of consumption which only a few years ago would have been considered to be incurable. The modern treatment is based upon two theories—that it is possible to so increase the number and activity of cells formed by the body, which have the power of destroying the tubercular germs, that the further progress and life of these dreaded bacilli can be prevented; the second principle is that the better nourished the nervous system of the patient is, the better able will he be to resist the onset of secondary disease. Consequently, such medicines are employed as cod liver oil, in order to increase the formation

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