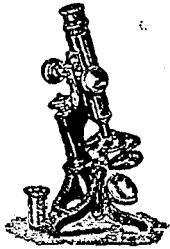


Medical Matters.

THE LATEST CANCER CURE.



WHILE other diseases are one by one yielding their secrets to science, and one by one are becoming clearly understood, both as to their etiology and their treatment, malignant diseases remain obdurate alike to investigation and to cure. The result has been that once or twice each year a new cure for cancer is produced—unfortunately, however, with the invariable result, so far, that expectations are raised and doomed to bitter disappointment. The latest method of treatment is based upon the principle which has already been tested—the injection into human beings suffering from diphtheria, of the serum of the blood of horses and of other animals into whose body has been injected cultivations of the special microbes of diphtheria. Two well-known French physiologists have now announced that they have injected into the bodies of asses and other animals portions of a solution in which cancerous growths had been macerated, and that from the serum obtained from such animals, injections have been made into persons suffering from malignant growths, and, it is asserted, with remarkable effects. Scientists who demand positive proof before a statement can be accepted as a truth, will of course watch with the greatest interest the progress of these and of similar experiments in the same direction. The matter is too important to thousands of the population of these islands to be lightly regarded, and it is, therefore, only possible to say that all will earnestly hope that the latest cancer treatment may prove to be a really curative remedy.

SHORT SIGHT AND CRIME.

A REMARKABLE article which recently appeared in an American contemporary argues that defective vision has an important influence in making men criminals. The point is a novel one, and therefore the arguments which are adduced in its support deserve attention. Our eyes, says the writer, are merely the principal avenues through which intellectual food is acquired. If all individuals were alike and all eyes imperfect, the conditions would be more nearly equal, but those eyes that are perfect confer upon their possessors an immense advantage. Man always takes advantage of his weaker brother, who is therefore obliged to resort to various measures in self defence. If the measures employed are legal, well and good; if they are illegal, he

becomes a criminal. Consequently the writer argues that some men in self defence, in consequence of nature having endowed them with weak eyes, become criminals. The shortsightedness of the argument hardly requires to be exposed.

CHRONIC DEAFNESS.

AN interesting case has recently been recorded of a patient who had been deaf from the age of nine, and who, when 35 years old, came under treatment. Her condition was found to be due to closure of the Eustachian tubes. The catheter treatment was commenced, and in a week she could distinguish a sound, and, after three months, hearing became quite normal. The case is remarkable chiefly for the fact that the deafness had been complete for so long a period, and that the recovery was so perfect. It should encourage similar attempts in apparently confirmed cases of deafness. An interesting fact is also shown in connection with this case, that the mental improvement of the patient was most marked as soon as her hearing was established. In consequence of the early age at which her infirmity commenced, she had not been able to receive any education.

ANTISEPTIC MIDWIFERY.

SOME important statistics have recently been published which conclusively show the immense advantages which have followed from the observance of antiseptic rules in midwifery work. The mortality in this country from pregnancy has diminished in a most marked manner during the last twenty years and is now much lower here than in any other European country. While on the one hand credit must be given to the greater skill and efficiency of midwifery practitioners, this would certainly not account for the marked decrease in mortality during the last two decades. The use of antiseptics requires to be made with caution and common sense, for it is well known on the one hand that the danger of infection by her attendant is greater than the danger from ordinary want of cleanliness. The precautions, therefore, which should be observed, consist chiefly in boiling all surgical instruments before use, and absolute cleanliness of the hands and clothes of the attendant. At the same time, greater precautions are now observed in order to prevent the admission of sewer gas into the patient's room. The best and most successful accoucheurs deprecate the plan of administering powerful antiseptic injections to the patient before labour has commenced, or during its progress, as such injections tend to act as astringents, and so prevent the proper dilatation of the canal.

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