

Medical Matters.

THE GLAND TREATMENT.



IN this term, is included the treatment of various diseases by preparations made from the organs of various animals, and it is a well known fact that the method is being constantly extended. It began, of course, with the success of the treatment of certain diseases by means of the thyroid gland, and within the last few months this treatment has been still further developed by its employment in cases of uterine disease accompanied by profuse hæmorrhages. A number of cases have been placed on record in which doses of thyroid preparations have been successful in cases of fibroids, and still more recently the remedy has been used with apparent success even in cases of cancer—both mammary and uterine. On the same principle, preparations of the ovary of the sheep have been given in cases of ovarian disease, and apparently with very remarkable results. Within the last few weeks, cases have been recorded in which the salivary glands have been employed with apparent success in treating both ovarian and uterine diseases. It is stated on good authority that favourable results have been obtained in more than sixty cases of enlarged and painful ovaries which would certainly have warranted the removal of the organs, but in which the patients, at the present moment, are perfectly well and free from pain. Some of the results in question, especially in cases of cancer, are recorded in a valuable paper published in our influential contemporary the *Medical Times*, and are so important that they will doubtless receive the close attention of medical men in every part of the world. But the number of cases so far treated is of course too small to justify any definite conclusion as to the curative power of the preparations in question.

THE PLAGUE.

DURING the last few months, great interest has been exhibited by the Governments of various European countries, in the progress of the Plague in India, and, from Vienna and other capitals, medical expeditions have been sent to Bombay and Calcutta to report upon the characteristics and progress of the disease.

The report of the Viennese expedition has just been published, and includes very full descriptions of the progress of over 70 cases with particulars of 47 pathological investigations. It is regarded as proved that the bacillus already described, is the cause of the disease and that the germ enters the body in the great majority of cases through the skin, in a small proportion of cases through the lungs, and in a very few cases through the tonsils. In other words, the plague, if this view be correct, is communicated by direct contact of the diseased with the healthy, and not, as in many other diseases, through the medium of food or of water. It is considered that the period of incubation does not extend beyond four or five days. A further interesting point which seems beyond dispute is that rats are the great transmitters of infection. Great numbers of these animals were found dead in the districts of Bombay, when the plague was exceptionally virulent, and there seems every reason to believe that they directly conveyed the contagion not only to each other but also to human beings. It is considered as just possible that the plague might be introduced into European seaports by means of these animals; but that, with proper medical supervision, it could not be introduced by travellers, and with proper disinfection of goods the latter also would be innocuous.

A UNIQUE STUDENT.

It is reported that a medical student named Borysik has just obtained his degree at Warsaw, at the age of 75. If the facts be true it is a remarkable instance of the truth of the proverb that "everything comes to him who waits." It is stated that some fifty-four years ago he commenced his curriculum, but for twenty years was compelled by want of means to act as a schoolmaster. At the end of that time, he had earned and learned sufficient to pass his first examination with distinction, but then the Polish rebellion broke out. He was exiled to Siberia, where for thirty-two years he was kept at hard labour in the silver mines. Receiving a pardon, then, he returned to Warsaw and resumed his somewhat interrupted studies with the result already mentioned. It is said that he is now about to commence practice, and his professional brethren everywhere will doubtless wish that the youngest and oldest recruit to their ranks may meet with every success.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)