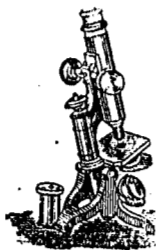


Medical Matters.

INFECTION BY TUBERCULOUS MILK.



Dr. Brouardel, who has now returned to Paris from the International Conference on Tuberculosis in Berlin, has stated to a representative of the Press that Dr. Koch no longer denies the possibility of the communication of bovine tuberculosis to human beings, and admitted that milk infected with the disease might be injurious. In view of Dr. Koch's published speech at the conference we do not think that this necessarily means that he has receded from the position he originally took up, but rather that it indicates a scientific attitude of mind on the part of the Professor, who, while he declines to say dogmatically that bovine tuberculosis is never communicated to human beings, still holds that such communication is so rare as to be almost unknown.

SOME EFFECTS OF AUTOMOBILING.

It would seem as if all inventions and recreations had their corresponding dangers; thus we hear of new diseases known as "telephone-ear" and "ping-pong teno-synovitis," and now the medical profession is asserting that a few of the effects of automobiling are colds, headaches, earaches, and extreme irritability.

In this exhilarating recreation everything is sacrificed to speed, consequently weariness soon ensues, the irregularity of the motion produces muscular fatigue, escaped electricity is responsible for much irritability of the nervous system, as well as severe headache in many instances, the suction of air irritates the air passages, the strain on the nerves and muscles of the eyes predisposes to conjunctivitis, while earache is a common complaint amongst automobilists. Lastly, the complexion, which has in the past been the pride of the British woman, is likely to be irreparably injured when she takes enthusiastically to the pastime. Therefore let those who adopt this form of amusement count the cost.

THE SERUM OF WHOOPING-COUGH.

Considerable interest is excited in Brussels by the discovery by Dr. C. Leuriaux of the serum of whooping-cough. This is injected under the skin in the abdominal region, and its effects become apparent forty-eight hours after inoculation. It is asserted that if the injection is made at once on the manifestation of

symptoms, a cure can be effected in from eight to ten days, the normal course of the disease being from six to eight weeks, and that the serum produces an early cessation of the paroxysms of coughing so painful to watch in the small sufferers.

TAPEWORM ON THE BRAIN.

A most curious case was recently made public in the course of an inquest on the body of a man who died in Pentonville Prison while undergoing a sentence of two months' hard labour. Dr. Syme, assistant medical officer, said that the deceased man was in good health when admitted, and was put on oakum picking. On his first serious symptom of illness he was removed to the prison infirmary, and died suddenly on the following day. The case was a most unusual one. On examination, his brain was found to be studded with larvæ of the tapeworm. There were over fifty of these parasites and they had worn away the skull. The tapeworm must have been generating for years. The eggs, which the deceased must have swallowed, were of canine extraction, and were believed to have come from the dog. Death was caused by the larvæ of the tapeworm, of which specimens were shown to the jury, who in returning a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, said the case appeared to be of the greatest scientific interest.

TWO CASES OF FOLIE DU DONTÉ.

In the *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, Dr. John H. W. Rhein recently reported these cases: The first patient was a woman, twenty-four years of age. Her symptoms had begun when she was sixteen years old. She was afflicted with the desire to repeat whatever she did or said. She had the fear that she had committed a sin, the character of which she could not define. There was no history of insanity in the family. The second patient was a woman of forty years, who suffered from the fear of being contaminated. She felt this fear especially after handling her handkerchief. These cases illustrate a disease which has been described under the title of folie du donté. The writer thinks that it may be concluded that folie du donté, *i.e.*, a train of symptoms in which doubt and fear of contact with external things predominate, may be a manifestation of neurasthenia, with the same prognosis as this disease, or that it may be a distinct form of mental disorder of degenerative type.

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