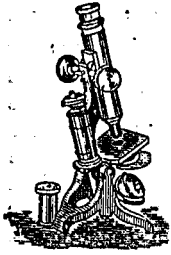


Medical Matters.



BAGGING BACILLI.

To three Italian physicians belongs the honour of discovering two new bacilli. Dr. Castellani, an Italian physician, residing in Uganda, has discovered the microbe of the dreaded sleeping sickness which, in the neighbourhood of the Victoria Nyanza, has slain 50,000 natives in a single year, and Professors Panichi and Tizzoni have, this week, reported to the Bologna Academy of Sciences that they have discovered the bacillus of pneumonia, and, further, that experiments made with the object of its destruction in sick persons have given excellent results. This latest bacillus, it is stated, multiplies with extraordinary rapidity. It is also reported that Dr. Tizzoni, of Bologna, and Dr. Mamorek, of Vienna, have simultaneously discovered a new tuberculosis serum. Its effects will be watched with interest, as there is at present no entirely satisfactory serum for this disease.

RINGWORM CAUGHT FROM A CAT.

Dr. Leslie Roberts reports in *Brit. Journal of Dermatology* (September) an interesting series of ringworm cases contracted from a kitten brought to Cheshire from Egypt. The fungus discovered had a close resemblance to our well-known *Tinea microsporon*, but differed slightly in appearance in cultures and under the microscope. The disease was not only conveyed to upwards of a dozen people, but also to an English kitten and Skye terrier. Dr. Roberts describes well the appearance of the affection on the cats, a very important practical point. "The disease, which was limited to the forehead and ears, was characterised by the formation of bald patches presenting a desquamating surface, and numerous short, broken hairs which could be easily extracted. There was no change of colour and no discharge, so that the disease could be very easily overlooked—as, indeed, was the case when the veterinary surgeon, who was first consulted, examined the animal."

Ringworm is not only easily overlooked in the cat, but in other animals, especially cattle, and it would be well if parents, and more especially schoolmasters, looked to their pet animals. A case of ringworm caught by a young lady from a hedgehog which she had captured young and taken home to pet is on record.

Dictating SORE THROAT.

Dictating sore throat, says *Health*, is an affection of the vocal chords that business men get from the odd, strained, high voices which they use in dictating to their stenographers. "I don't know why it is," a physician said recently, "but nearly every man, when he dictates, puts his natural, easy voice aside, and uses a high-pitched, feverish note that plays the very deuce with the vocal chords as it grates over them. A man of big interests will dictate over one hundred letters a day at times. His throat is so sore when he is done that he has to take some oleaginous and soothing medicine. The disease is distinctly a modern one, a sign of these complex modern times, and it has been called, for want of a better name, dictating sore throat. The only cure for it is to teach men to dictate in their natural voices (a thing that seems to be impossible), or to compel them to cease dictating altogether." That people keep certain voices for certain purposes, no one who has observed the voice of the average man or woman reading family prayers will doubt.

FLOATING SANATORIA.

An "Ex-Ship's Surgeon and Consumptive," writing to the Press, deprecates sea voyages for consumptives on the grounds that, in sailing vessels, ventilation is very defective, and the air down below usually foul and oppressive. There is a scarcity of fresh food, particularly milk and butter, and the cooking is rather coarse and rough, so that unless in a very early stage of the disease the consumptive will not be able to assimilate or digest what he eats. Then there are the monotony and lack of exercise, temptations to card-playing and drink, and the vitiating atmosphere of the smoke-room to consider.

But surely none of these objections are valid. They may, and do, apply to ordinary sailing and steam ships, though on the regular ocean liner, while the accommodation is very circumscribed, the food is excellent. Why, however, if sea air is desirable for consumptives should we not have floating sanatoria, the vessels being specially designed for the purpose, and the exercise, dieting, and other details of the patient's treatment regulated, as in ordinary sanatoria, by the medical officers, who, of course, would be carried by the ship, as would also a staff of nurses. Why should we go on for ever and ever in the same old ruts? Progress is the law of life, and we may advance on the practices of our great-grandfathers without disrespect to their memories.

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