

Medical Matters.

THE BATTLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS.



Considerable interest has been excited by a paper recently read at Marburg by Professor von Behring, in which he gave the results of the researches he is making with the object of discovering a remedy against tuberculosis. The Professor has succeeded in obtaining from tubercle bacilli a preparation to which the name of tulase has been given. With the help of this preparation he has been able to render animals immune against infection from the virulent tubercle bacilli.

He stated that it is not impossible that preventative and healing effects may subsequently be attained by means of tulase. Clinical experiments which have hitherto been made with this substance, and which have proved that it exerts a very favourable effect on scrofulous and tuberculous diseases of children, have consisted exclusively of subcutaneous injections.

Until it has been conclusively ascertained which is the most beneficial manner of applying tulase this new substance will be supplied only to hospitals and clinics, where its employment will be made dependent on the fulfilment of definite conditions.

Professor von Behring has been unable to obtain serum similar to diphtheria serum, and considers that there is little possibility of ever making the discovery.

THE DIET FACTOR IN THE HIGHER EVOLUTION OF MAN.

Dr. Alexander Haig writing in the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, says: Diet gives man control of the body and its passions, and thus eventually develops the full growth of reason. The human race prefers to expect miraculous improvement and despises the gradual, but life is an evolution under fixed laws. Man suffers only because he errs, and instead of arraighing heaven and blasphemously attributing his self-wrought evil to the all good, he should use his reason to divine his error and to find the better way. God is the God of the mountain summit, and when man has suffered enough he will see the stars and begin to pierce his way through the jungle which hides the first steps of the ascent.

It is now known that three-fourths of our so-called "diseases" are the results of ignorance and folly, and with more life and more light

probably the other one-fourth will be seen to be the same. Evil is a stage in the evolution of good. Do good and you will receive good; do evil and evil will be your reward. This is the great law, and none, either nations or individuals, escape it. . . . Man has in him the instinct of ascent; that which will nerve him for the climb and render all earth's prizes valueless beside the crown that awaits him at the summit. Therefore, while he has hoped for some miraculous intervention he had only to look within, to evolve, to open up, for the germs of truth and love are sown there for a harvest which will ripen; and here his natural food will help just as his unnatural food has hindered. For right living conduces to reason and to all the higher elements of thought that conduct human nature to its utmost possibilities. . . . Man is undoubtedly a frugivorous animal, and in surrendering his birthright in the natural foods and wandering after flesh and stimulants he has endeavoured to outwit nature and has reaped a terrible harvest of disease and misery in consequence. A natural diet eventually brings about natural circulation, and natural circulation in the brain cures the disease of "selfishness" and purifies and ennobles the mental outlook. Reason serene and unclouded is the instrument with which man will one day fulfil his destiny and hew his way from the stifling tangle of undergrowth to "the higher sunlit slopes of that mountain which has no summit, or whose summit is in heaven only."

Racial evolution has a triple foundation in justice, truth, and love; and right living, especially as regards food, is connected chiefly with the central stone of this foundation, but is also related to the other two; for it is the negation of love to slay our fellow creatures, and it is injustice to make others do for us what we shrink from doing for ourselves.

THE ANTI-MALARIAL CAMPAIGN.

An interesting report on the anti-malarial campaign in Italy by a Roman correspondent of the *Lancet* states that the use of State quinine goes on increasing in a remarkable way, and is accompanied by a corresponding diminution in the mortality from malaria. The exhibition of the drug in the form of "chocolates of tannate of quinine," made by the State factory, for rendering it more agreeable to take, especially for children, has proved of the greatest utility, the more so because of the slow rate of absorption of the tannate and its consequent suitability for the prevention of primitive and recidivous infections.

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