

Medical Matters.

TYPHOID BACILLI IN THE GALL-BLADDER.

The great importance of the gall-bladder as a storehouse for germs of the typhoid group is pointed out, says the Buda Pest correspondent of the *Lancet*, by Dr. M. Gross in the *Orvosok Lapja* of December 23rd, 1909. He says that many individuals who have come into contact with patients suffering from typhoid fever, but are not themselves ill, harbour virulent typhoid germs in their system, and are thus a menace to their surroundings. He found the bile altered in all cases of typhoid fever that came to necropsy, and typhoid bacilli were present even where the lower portions of the intestinal tract were free. It is reasonable to suppose that in many cases of typhoid fever the bacilli in the fæces are really derived from the gall-bladder. In the blood of rabbits (as was first observed by Forster in Germany) the typhoid bacilli could be found in the bile, at a time when they had already disappeared from the blood and urine. They were also found in the upper duodenum, but not in the lower intestines. Even where the bile was sterile cultures could be obtained if pieces of the wall of the gall-bladder were incubated in an appropriate medium. The paratyphoid germs behaved in every way similar to the typhoid germs. The bacilli sometimes persisted very long after the termination of the disease. In one case the gall-bladder even continued to be infected for 20 years. There was very little that could be done under such circumstances, since neither the bile nor the intestinal contents admitted of sterilisation during life. The best course was to make repeated bacteriological examinations of the fæces in suspicious cases and to operate whenever a catarrh or the formation of a calculus seemed to be probable.

PASTEURIZED MILK

Dr. E. Mather Sill writing in the *New York Medical Journal* in favour of the use of raw as opposed to Pasteurized milk, says:—Pasteurization is not getting at the root of the milk evil, and heating dirty milk that is full of bacteria will never make strong or healthy children. What we want is regulation to enforce a pure milk supply. It is unnecessary to Pasteurize milk to destroy disease germs when a pure milk supply is provided for, and this can be practically done by having the herd frequently subjected to the tuberculin test to exclude tuberculous cows, and by having an adequate number of inspectors and skilled veterinary surgeons to keep the milk supply under close observation.

Hypnotism as a Cure for Dipsomania.

It may interest your readers to hear of a case of dipsomania treated by hypnotism, when other "cures" had been tried unsuccessfully. The patient (a lady) was a true dipsomaniac (not an habitual drunkard), but having at varying intervals terrible bouts of drinking, and this had been going on for two or three years when I went to her. Though in between these bouts she would be a teetotaler, and had sometimes been so for several months at a time, when suddenly the craving for drink came on, she would drink either brandy or whiskey or any spirit she could get hold of, becoming for the time being absolutely the slave of drink with all the accompanying moral and physical degradation. As a rule, her doctor advised stout after these bouts, as she would have something, all stimulant could not be left off suddenly, and stout was less harmful than spirit; but she would drink as much as 13 pints in the 24 hours at first. Various "cures" had been tried without success, also "Christian Science," and she had become hopeless about a cure, though she genuinely wished to be cured when not drinking. Her family history was bad, but she was a clever, cultivated woman; she had three children, and the best of husbands. When I went to her she was just getting over a bout of drinking, though still incapacitated by it, and her husband and maid were worn out. This time she had drunk a pint of sal volatile in 24 hours! It was a wonder she was alive. She was then on stout, and craving for it about every half hour, and in a deplorable condition. Her doctor advised trying hypnotism, and, though her husband was not altogether in favour of it; he felt other cures had been useless, and was willing it should be tried, and the patient was willing also. Her own doctor could give it, as so many can now, but he advised her going to one who has given up his general practice and has made hypnotism his speciality for the cure of drink, drugs, stammering, etc., etc., and who is, I believe, one of the leading authorities on hypnotism amongst medical men. Accordingly he was sent for and saw the patient twice in bed, and the second time he partially hypnotised her, but wished her after that (as she was well enough), to go to his house, which we did, and we went in all about five times, I think. He rather wished she should have had a longer treatment, but it had been arranged the family should go to the sea when the children came home for the holidays, and this was not altered, but I went down with her for the first

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