

gerous, better, cheaper and more convenient than opsonotherapy or the method of Wright and Douglas." Though worth reading, we cannot spare space for their reproduction.

### **Rabies Examinations in Alabama**

The President of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Dr. Lewis C. Morris, of Birmingham, has issued a circular letter in which several interesting topics are broached. One is the work done by the Association Laboratory in Montgomery in examining the brains of dogs suspected of infection with rabies. Up to the 26th of December, 1911, 1,414 heads had been examined, the work beginning in October, 1908, and constantly increasing.

It is hard to estimate the immense benefit conferred upon physicians and citizens of Alabama by this one labor of the association. If it had done nothing else than diagnose and successfully treat cases of impending hydrophobia all over the state, this alone would justify all money so far spent in maintaining the organization; but this is only a drop in the bucket—"a surface indication."

### **Causes of Appendicitis**

Dr. G. K. Dickinson, surgeon to Christ Hospital and the City Hospital and consulting surgeon to Bayonne City Hospital, New Jersey, believes that the excessive use of red meats and their decomposition in the intestines is one fertile cause of appendicitis. He reminds his hearers that "man is the *only animal* who makes eating a pleasure, who gormandizes and overfills the intestinal tract with high proteids, and who eats more than can be digested, the undigested portions proceeding to fermentation." Also that man is the *only animal* who has appendicitis. We think that, to use a colloquial phrase, Dr. Dickinson has another guess coming. True, it is not easy to cite examples of indigestion among meat-eating animals, nor yet in the inhabitants of the thrifty pig pen, but to suppose that

meat-eating animals stop gorging as soon as the pangs of hunger are appeased, or that the prize pig eats from necessity, and not for pleasure, is putting it pretty strong. The writer's memory of comparative anatomy fails to inform him whether jackals, tigers and hogs have appendices, but if they are blessed with such unnecessary fifth wheels they certainly affect dietaries the doctor says are favorable to the development of appendicitis. At any rate, in this era of high prices the red-meat-appendicitis theory tends to economy.

### **The Spirochetes in the Heart**

That was a rather strange condition discovered by Warthin and Snyder and described in the A. M. A. Journal of March 9, where the spirochetes were found in enormous numbers in the heart muscle of an infant that died at the age of two months of congenital syphilis, yet no spirochetes could be discovered in the tissues of any other internal organ. The localization of the spirochetes in the heart, to the exclusion of any other internal organ, is rather unexpected, since the lungs, spleen and liver are generally the first to be interrogated by pathologists.

A second case, a syphilitic infant dying on the eighth day, showed the same relative conditions of the internal organs. The mother showed no signs of syphilis, nor did the placenta, but the child had snuffles and a papular eruption.

### **New and Non-Official Remedies, 1912**

Under the above title the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry appointed by the American Medical Association has published a book that ought to be on the desk of every doctor. It gives a list and brief description of all the proprietary medicines which have been examined by the council and found to comply with its rules. Therapeutic agents for every desired effect and in the most acceptable forms are therein listed and briefly described.

So many of the proprietary medicines that