

ation of deaf mutes through intermarriage. In Germany the method of finger language is quite obsolete, having everywhere given place to that of teaching the deaf mute to emit vocal and articulate utterances, which he does not hear, and to interpret by sight the lip-movements of those possessed of speech, a system which, notwithstanding its great and obvious advantages, has made but very slow headway here. The most interesting feature in the Congress was the object-lesson presented of the capabilities of the deaf mute for taking his part in social and public life, if only the exercise of his power and the growth of his intellect be not stifled by neglect. Infants and children chattered according to their abilities, one or two deaf mutes took part orally in the discussion, a vote of thanks was moved in a graceful speech by another, and the pupils of one of the forty or fifty institutions in the kingdom, 100 strong, after going through some well-executed evolutions sounded round after round of loud "evvivas!" It is remarkable that the only country in which these unfortunate persons are deprived by the law of their civil rights should be that in which most has been done to fit them to take their place among educated citizens.

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**Cholera-infected Food.**—According to the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of July 31 and August 7, 1897, a number of rabbits that had been inoculated with cholera and other pathogenic bacteria were taken from the Aubervilliers Hospital in Paris by thieves, who carted them about the suburbs of Clichy and St. Ouen, and sold them at low prices. The police succeeded in finding several of the people who had purchased, but only one family that had eaten them. In this case no trouble of any sort was experienced.

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**Disinfection by Alcohol.**—According to DR. F. EPSTEIN (*Zeitschrift f. Hygiene und Infektionskrankheiten*, xxiv. p. 1), alcohol is strongest in disinfecting power at 50 per cent., from which point in either direction its power diminishes. Absolute alcohol has no power at all. Chemicals which are more or less efficient in aqueous solution lose their disinfectant property in strong alcohol; but corrosive, carbolic acid, lysol, and thymol have greater effect in 50 per cent. alcohol than in water.

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**Widal's Test for Typhoid.**—The expectations raised some few years ago, when Widal announced his discovery that the serum of a patient suffering from typhoid fever, added to a broth culture of the bacillus of that disease, caused the bacilli to agglutinate in groups or masses, to lose their mobility, and to die, seemed doomed to disappointment by the subsequent observation that the same phenomenon might be produced by the serum of other febrile diseases. It was true that the positive results, while apparently constant in enteric fever, were exceptional in non-typhoid cases, but the exceptions were numerous enough to cast a doubt on each single observation and to deprive the test of all certainty and diagnostic value. It was next found that in cases of true enteric fever the delicacy of the test was enhanced by the use of a larger proportion of the culture fluid, or, still better, by the dilution of the serum with water or broth. Widal himself adopted dilutions of 1:10, with better results in cases of true enteric fever, but without eliminating erroneous conclusions in others. Subsequent observers, however, ascertained that