

**The Influence of Veratrine on the Cardio-inhibitory Action of the Pneumogastric.**—BUSQUET (*Jour. de phys. et de path. gén.*, 1907, ix, 50), experimenting with injections of veratrine in the frog, finds that this drug throws out of function very quickly the action of the vagus nerve upon the heart. Two minutes after the frogs received veratrine, stimulation of the vagus caused but very slight lengthening of the systoles, and three minutes after the dose faradization of the vagus had no influence whatsoever upon the heart's action. In such mammals as the dog, the rabbit, and the guinea-pig the same results were obtained, though the influence of the drug was more fleeting than in frogs. Unlike the action of atropine, the heart rate is not increased. The experiments did not show whether veratrine acts on the nerve itself or on the muscle of the heart.

**The Differential Diagnosis between Pneumococci and Streptococci**—RICHARD LEVY (*Virch. Arch.*, 1907, cxxxvii, 327), after experimenting with blood agar as suggested by Schottmüller, the inulin-serum media of Hiss, and the litmus-nutrose-agar devised by E. Fränkel, comes to the conclusion that with none of these culture media can one differentiate accurately all streptococci from certain types of pneumococci. In devising a new and surer method he has put to practical use some observations made by Neufeld, who has described a specific bacteriolytic action of bile upon pneumococci. Levy employs, instead of bile, sodium taurocholate. The test is very simple, and consists in mixing a 5 per cent or 10 per cent. solution of sodium taurocholate in bouillon with an equal amount of a bouillon culture of the organism to be tested. As a control, equal quantities of sterile bouillon and the bouillon culture are mixed. The tubes are shaken vigorously. If the organism belongs to the pneumococcus or streptococcus mucosus groups the turbid bouillon cultures become clear; if the organism is a streptococcus the culture retains its original cloudiness. This method he has tried on 35 strains, and claims that it is the most satisfactory one for the differentiation of these bacteria. He concludes that *Streptococcus mitior* of Schottmüller is not to be definitely distinguished from *Streptococcus longus*, and that *Streptococcus mucosus* is a variety of pneumococcus and closely allied to it.

NICOLLE and ADIL-BEY (*Ann. de l'Inst. Past.*, 1907, t. xxi, 20) in another series of experiments have arrived at much the same results as Levy. They find that bile obtained from several different animals and that sodium choleate cause prompt solution of pneumococci when added to cultures of this organism. A large number of bacteria are partially refractory and the streptococci and staphylococci completely refractory to the bacteriolytic action of bile.

**The Experimental Production of Atypical Epithelial Growth and the Origin of Malignant Tumors.**—FISCHER (*Münch. med. Woch.*, 1906, liii, 2041) states that the almost regular occurrence in certain cancers of subepithelial inflammatory infiltration of the connective tissue led him to try to produce artificially some chronic inflammation under the epithelium which would cause an increased activity of the epithelial cells. After using various substances without much success he was finally able, by injecting a suspension of scarlet-R in oil under the epithelium of rabbits' ears, to produce a very remarkable picture. Besides