

very luxuriantly, and, after a number of subcultivations, it lost the power to produce gas, while it preserved its characteristics otherwise. This loss of power of gas production has existed to the present after a sufficient number of cultivations have been made, and there is no indication of any loss of vitality in other ways. Characters so acquired are generally relinquished by bacteria in a comparatively small number of generations, but this strain of *Bacillus coli* seems peculiarly tenacious of its acquirement.

Bacteria and the Intestinal Wall.—An interesting series of experiments has been carried out by M. B. RAVENEL and B. W. HAMMER (*Journal of Medical Research*, June, 1911), with a view to determining whether or not *Bacillus prodigiosus* could be passed through the intestinal wall and appear in the blood after injection into the rectum. In a series of a dozen rabbits, carefully tended to prevent them from nullifying the results, the findings were remarkably uniform, and in no case were Ravenel and Hammer able to find bacteria in the blood at periods varying from one and one-half hours to five and one-third hours. They did not find either that the organisms were carried far by antiperistalsis, for the bacteria injected into the rectum did not ordinarily reach the bowel above the ileocecal valve. In some cases five hours were sufficient to allow the disappearance of the organism from the rectum; and, however much one may feel convinced to the contrary, the observations of Ravenel and Hammer indicate that there is evidently no passage of large numbers of bacteria into the circulating blood.

Do Infected Cattle Necessarily Eliminate Tubercle Bacilli?—In the *Journal of Medical Research* (June, 1911), VARANUS A. MOORE reports four years' work upon the elimination of bacteria in cattle known to be tuberculous, as well as in those which have merely given a tuberculin reaction. His observations show support of the old view, that tubercle bacilli are not ordinarily present in the milk of animals which show no symptoms, even though they react; he finds further that tuberculous disease of the udder is very certain to show itself by the presence of bacteria in the milk, and further, that the milk is accidentally infected in those cases in which cows have open lesions almost without regard to whether these lesions are in the respiratory, the reproductive, or the digestive tract. Moore experienced some difficulty by reason of frequently finding acid-fast bacteria, which proved non-productive of tuberculosis in the guinea-pig.

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