

microscopic examination of the stools of cholera cases, he found different forms and kinds of germs, and among these was one of comma-shape, which he fancied was the cause of this disease. Through the process of "culture," and "experiment" upon the lower animals he asserts he has demonstrated that this germ is the actual cause of this disease. So confident was he that this newly discovered, comma-shaped object was the cause of cholera that for several years he continued to assert with the utmost assurance that the presence of these comma-shaped bacilli in the dejections of a person suspected of having this disease, constitutes positive evidence that the case is one of pure Asiatic cholera.

But this comma-shaped bacillus theory of cholera has proved a failure. These invisible comma-shaped germs are now found to be universal and harmless. They are found in the secretions of the mouth and throat of healthy persons, and in the common diarrheas of summer everywhere—they swarm in the intestines of the healthy and are observed in hardened fecal discharges as well. Dr. Koch to-day asserts that these bacilli are universally present. He even tells us that: "Water from whatever source frequently, not to say invariably, contains comma-shaped organisms."

Drs. Pettenkofer of Munich and Emmerich of Berlin, physicians of high distinction and experts in this disease, drank each a cubic centimeter of "culture broth," which contained these bacilli, without experiencing a single symptom characteristic of cholera, although the draught in each instance was followed by liquid stools swarming with these germs.

Dr. Koch has kept *au courant* with the foregoing facts, as well as others quite as significant, and, had he accepted the evidences which thus year after year have been forced upon him, his pernicious cholera germ theory with its most disastrous consequences in misleading mankind would have been unknown to-day.

HENRY RAYMOND ROGERS, M.D.

#### Mississippi Valley Medical Association.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 27, 1895.

To the Editor:—Will you kindly mention in the next issue of our JOURNAL that the twenty-first annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association will occur at Detroit, Mich., on Sept. 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1895, and that assurances have been received from the railroad companies that one fare for the round trip will be the rate? Wm. Pepper, M.D., LL.D., of Philadelphia, Pa., will read the Annual Address on Medicine on the evening of September 4. Dr. H. O. Walker, of Detroit, the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, says that the local profession of that city is prepared to entertain the society handsomely, and the indications thus far point to a very large and successful meeting.

Sincerely yours, W. N. WISHARD, M.D.

#### Mortality of Physicians.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., April 29, 1895.

To the Editor:—Can you refer me to any article or table published on the mortality of physicians?

Fraternally yours,

J. M. FARRINGTON, M.D.

ANSWER.—For complete list of works on the diseases and longevity of physicians see the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U. S. A., vol. XI, p. 225. For the edification of our Danish scholars we mention the following: Gjennemsnitstalevealdere i den danske Lægestand i indevaerende Aarhundrede, M.C. F.C. Bladt, Ugesk. f. Læger. Kjobenh., 1879, 3. R., xxvii, 359, (which according to the "catalogue" means "concerning the duration of life of Danish physicians.")

#### American Pediatric Society.

HOT SPRINGS, VA., May 29, 1895.

To the Editor:—Our Society has passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of the American Pediatric Society the evidence thus far produced regarding the effects of diphtheria antitoxin serum justifies its further and extensive trial.

Yours,  
SAMUEL S. ADAMS, Secretary.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**Immunity, Protective Inoculations in Infectious Diseases, and Serum-Therapy.** By GEORGE M. STERNBERG, M.D., LL.D., Surgeon-General U.S. Army, ex-President American Public Health Association, Honorary Member of the Epidemiological Society of London, of the Royal Academy of Medicine at Rome, of the Academy of Medicine at Rio Janeiro, of the Société d'Hygiène, etc. One volume, 325 pages, octavo, bound in extra muslin, bevelled edges, uniform with the other volumes of the *Medical Practitioners' Library*. Price, \$2.50; in flexible morocco, \$3.25.

The uppermost topic of the day is that of serum-therapy and protective inoculations. We have here a book by America's foremost bacteriologist, in which the question is impartially reviewed from a bacteriologic standpoint. The book is divided in two parts, of which the first is given to natural and acquired immunity, and the second to protective inoculations and serum-therapy. The diseases anthrax, chicken cholera, cholera, diphtheria, foot-and-mouth disease, glanders, hog cholera, hog erysipelas, hydrophobia, influenza, influenza of horses, pleuropneumonia of cattle, pneumonia, rinderpest, smallpox, swine plague, streptococcus infection, symptomatic anthrax ("black leg"), tetanus, tuberculosis, typhoid fever and yellow fever are separately treated.

In regard to natural immunity, the author apparently makes good his claim to priority to the theory so well supported by Metschnikoff, of phagocytosis, but yields readily to the view that the leucocytes are probably not the principal agency in the destruction of bacteria in living tissues. Buchner's demonstration that the ammonium salts, (any alkali according to Van Fodor) will increase normal resistance to bacterial invasion, is not accepted by the author as conclusive on this point, but as showing that the germicidal constituent of the tissues, whatever it may be, is only soluble in an alkaline fluid.

In regard to Haffkin's protective inoculations the author says the results "indicate that these inoculations have a real value, but that immunity is not immediately established, and consequently that during an epidemic a certain number of fatal cases may be expected among the inoculated as well as among the non-inoculated." The author regards the evidence in regard to immunity from smallpox, as probably due to the presence of an antitoxin in the blood of the immune individual. He cites his own experiments made at Brooklyn, and refers to Kinyoun's cases of injection of blood serum from an immune calf. As would seem natural, the author having devoted much of his life to the study of yellow fever, he again takes up the Domingoes Freire inoculations for yellow fever, those of Finlay, and resuscitates the old experiments of Wm. L. de Humboldt made in 1854 and 1855. We note a clerical error in the translation of the letter of Dr. de Humboldt to General Concha; in the original the number of cases inoculated by him in Vera Cruz was given as 1,438, not 1,458 as stated, (see Manzini, p. 2.) The bibliography at the conclusion of each chapter is valuable and complete.

We welcome the book to our table, not only as a sound and safe counsel on the theories of the day, but as an instructive and useful summary of the literature of the subject.

**Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Report.** Edited by SAMUEL WEST, M.D., and W. J. WALSHAM, M.D. Vol. xxx. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1894.

The editors of these reports usually succeed in making an interesting report, but they have been remarkably successful this time. In addition to the routine reports of matters pertaining exclusively to the hospital there are twenty-six separate articles viz: I, Aneurysm of the ascending part of the Arch of the Aorta, taking the natural position of the Heart, by Samuel Gee; II, Primary Cancer of Pancreas by W. P. Herringham, M.D.; III, Chloroform Anesthesia by Rich-