

Contract for his Election as 'European Medicine Centre'.

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The special difference between the pathology of today in Berlin, and of ten years ago, is the extraordinary development of the experimental and culture methods applied to micro-organisms as the agents in the causation of disease. In this direction the Pathological Institute has been thrown somewhat in the shade by the Reichsgesundheitsamt, where Dr. Koch has done so much good work. One is startled at the rapid diffusion of a knowledge of these matters among the laity, explicable, no doubt, by the presence last year of the Hygiene Exhibition, and the demonstrations and lectures then given on the subject of germs and their development. The properties of various bacilli form subjects for table talk, and, naturally, the amount of nonsense and pseudo-science which prevails is what might be expected. Everywhere the culture apparatus is seen, and it is rare to meet an assistant who has not got something under cultivation. There are no sceptics, at least, if there are any, they are "lying low" for the present. There were even murmurs against Virchow when, in the Reichstag, speaking on the cholera bacillus, he warned the members not to think the question finally settled with its discovery, and hinted that we were no nearer the eradication of consumption with all our knowledge of tubercle bacillus.

The relation of micro-organisms to anthrax and tubercle is accepted as quite settled, but the discussion wages hotly about pneumonia, diphtheria, puerperal fever, and cholera. x x x

The attitude of many prominent men at the discussion on pneumonia, at the German Medical Congress, showed the temper of the times. There was an

evident disposition to accept as specific the micrococcus which has been found in the exudation and sputum. Professor Jürgensen, who opened the debate, was most positive in his statements and treated the question as if practically settled. x x x

Professor Weigert has, on several occasions, demonstrated to me numerous cocci in the exudate cells in pneumonia lungs by a method which he has not yet published, when the ordinary methods proved quite futile. x x x

So also with puerperal fever. We seem still far from the discovery of the true contagion. Chain-like cocci have been found by many observers in many cases in exudation, the blood, and the solid organs; indeed, they seem to be the only forms of any significance which have been constantly met with. They are not distinguishable from the similar forms which occur in scarlet-fever, erysipelas and diphtheria. x x x

It is a curious circumstance that Actinomycosis, known in Germany since the publication of James Israel's cases in 1876 and Bollinger's article in 1877, should, so far as human cases are concerned, be confined to the country of its discovery. So far, no instance has been recorded in England or America. It is stated that the case of Mr. Treves of London, did not turn out to be genuine. In France they have only just woke up to the existence of the affection, and the article in the Revue de Médecine for April last is quite exhaustive. No doubt careful observation will reveal cases in this country, where the disease prevails rather extensively in cattle, more so indeed, than among German stock, judging from a somewhat limited observation of the latter. Being familiar with the disease in cattle it was interesting to have an opportunity of seeing a case in the human subject. x x x

Professor Goltz and his dogs excited no little attention in April, when his demonstration at the Medical Congress aroused the partizans on either side, and the question of cerebral localization for the moment became all-important. How old the question now seems! and yet it was but at the time of my last visit that Fritsch and Hitzig were making their famous observations. 'Knowledge grows but wisdom lingers' may be well said of this subject, about which we have learned so much in the past decade, and yet seem to have so little of that wisdom, or full truth, which is above the reach of controversy. The dog which Goltz brought from Strasburg, was stated by him to have had removed the entire motor zone, as understood by Fritsch and Hitzig, at two operations, Oct. 10 and Nov. 18, 1883. x x x*

*Editorial. Archives of Medicine, N.Y., 1884, xii, 170-84.