

and distilled water of the strength of one to six." The same bacteria he describes in the tissues of chancres and papules, though, to stain and bring them out clearly is, according to him, a much more difficult undertaking. In the secretions of soft chancres were also seen bacteria, which were thinner and longer than those obtained from a hard chancre or papule. Since the discovery of *Bacillus Tuberculosis* by Koch, the attention of the investigators of bacteria has been directed to syphilis as a fruitful field for research, so many diverse forms have been described, that it yet remains to be seen whether this last form discovered is the true one. Different forms have been described by Klebs, Hallier, Bermann, Salisbury and others, but none of these were able successfully to stain them with the aniline colors. Dr. M. does not say that these bacteria are the cause of syphilis; much more is needed to prove that. Since, however, Martineau and Hamonic have been able to inoculate young pigs with syphilis from the culture liquid, it is to be hoped that, by continued experiment, the role which these bacteria play in syphilis will soon be made clear.

### AN ACEPHALOUS MONSTER.

BY BEVERLEY D. HARISON, M.D., CAMBRAY.

This is not an unusual monstrosity, but as the case presents several instructive points in connection with the study of the subject, it seems not unworthy of publication. The labour was conducted by Dr. Burrows, of Lindsay, in my absence from home, on the 1st of January.

Mrs. T., aged about 35, generally very healthy, has had six children; three, including the last, born dead, the other three sound and healthy. In the confinement previous to this the child was a monster by defect, having no neck, and with the face set on back of shoulders. About the 1st December last, I was called in to see this woman; found symptoms of placentitis: intense pain in uterine and lumbar regions,

vomiting, rigors succeeded by febrile symptoms, and dropsy of the lower extremities. The abdomen was greatly enlarged. Dr. Burrows, who had seen her previously, had been treating her for placentitis. She did very well until her confinement at the eighth month, taking one grain of morphia a day. Labour had been in progress about two hours when Dr. Burrows saw her, and on rupturing the membranes over ten quarts of water came away. The presentation was transverse, partly side and back in left lumbar region. The placenta was adherent to the child's right side and partly to the head; there was no neck. Dr. Burrows separated the placenta from the child, turned, brought down a knee, and delivered within an hour of his arrival. The woman has made a good recovery. Examination revealed defective development of parietal bones, almost complete absence of occipital, and non-union and separation of the *laminae dorsales* throughout the cervical and dorsal regions, the spine being bifid down as far as the lumbar vertebrae.

### Selections: Medicine.

#### ROSSBACH ON COUGH AND EXPECTORATION.

—Rossbach found that the action of alkalies (after their entrance into the blood) was to diminish and finally to dry up the secretion from the tracheal mucous membrane (contrary to the usual doctrine). The same effect is believed to hold good for men using alkaline waters. In the direct application of alkalies (as by inhalation), Rossbach observed no effect. Weak solutions of potash or acetic acid, applied directly to the mucous membrane, caused strong hyperæmia and increased secretion. Astringents (tannin, alumen, nitrate of silver to 4 per cent.) brought about an opacity of epithelium, with total cessation of secretion. Observations on the mucous membrane and its vessels were not possible in this cloudy state of epithelium. Air passed through oil of turpentine and on to the