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MONTREAL, JUNE, 1894.

ANTIPYRIN AND ANTIFEBRIN.

According to the report of the United States Consul, the above drug is manufactured exclusively under the Knorr patents by the color works at Hoecheb in Germany. It is estimated that seventy-five tons of this preparation are sold annually, representing, according to an authority, a value of \$1,452,000, the greater part of which is clear profit. Apart from the ready solubility of antipyrin, it does not appear to have any advantages over antifebrin or acetanilide, which latter drug, not being patented, is sold for almost one-sixteenth the price of the patented antipyrin. The price of antipyrin is of course kept up by the law of supply and demand, and if there was less demand for it, the price would soon come down. For those who attend the poor the price of antipyrin at \$16.00 a pound is almost prohibitive when compared with antifebrin at \$1.00. Many regard antifebrin as safer than antipyrin; at any rate, the addition of a small quantity of alcohol to each dose not only renders antifebrin soluble in hot water, but also counteracts its depressing action on the heart. It is perhaps the best analgesic in dysmenorrhœa due to spasm of the tubes or uterus, while for relieving the pangs of the first stage of labor we have found nothing to surpass it. In no case, however, is it safe to exceed three or four ten-grain powders a day. Its solubility and activity are greatly increased by its thorough trituration

with equal parts of sugar of milk; but its compression into tablets seems to diminish the rapidity of its action. When taken in a fine powder, dry or with cold water, the action of antifebrin varies with the condition of the stomach; we have found it to act most quickly when taken after a meal, or when the stomach contains a certain amount of acid.

THE STAMPING OUT OF CHOLERA.

It has been known for the last ten years at least that Mecca was the great manufacturing centre of cholera germs for the whole world, and yet so fanatical were the Mahomedans in their faith in the miraculous powers of the holy well at that place, that the Turkish government did not venture to enforce the most ordinary precautions suggested by sanitary science. The holy well was found to be nothing better than a cess-pool, and that to drink its polluted waters was almost certain death, and yet the thousands of pilgrims continued to drink it and die. The British government has been blamed in some quarters for not using her great influence in order to have the holy well closed up, but it must be remembered that her rule in the East has only been possible through her proverbial justice and toleration of the various religious beliefs of her subjects, and on this particular subject of the holy well there were millions of people who were fanatical believers. At last, however, the Turkish government has agreed to purify the holy well at Mecca, and the British government has adopted quarantine regulations on the Red Sea port, so that very soon we may expect to hear that cholera has disappeared from the face of the earth. Now that the fact is becoming more generally known that the only way to contract cholera is to drink it, more care will be taken to secure a pure water supply. It was a pitiful example of official ignorance a year or two ago to see half a dozen steamers in New York harbor, each with a thousand or more people on board, and compelled to remain there drinking the water which had been taken on board at Hamburg from a river which was known to be polluted with cholera. And yet the authorities wondered that new cases made their appearance on board. The simple emptying and disinfection of the tanks and the refilling of them with clear water would have saved