

sicated. It has been a matter of long experience, that the worst epidemics occur in dry seasons.

Like enteric fever the spread of the disease is always through dejecta and material contaminated by them.

Looking at this, we may well be on guard for the coming hot months. There is no specific treatment for the disease yet known, and the best that can be done for it, once found, is to treat on general principles. In the matter of individual and family prophylaxis, general principles again are all that can be advised. Keeping the system well up to the highest normal plane of health; pure water, rendered so when there is any doubt, by boiling and filtration; plain nutritious food and plenty of rest; avoidance of over-fatigue and worry, all should be urged upon the community with especial care if the disease shows, even at a considerable distance. We took occasion last year to give our readers the benefit of the experience of those who best know how to deal with the disease, and we shall again as the season advances, endeavor to keep them posted on any new developments which may be to the fore.

---

### GUAIACOL.

The use of guaiacol as an antipyretic has recently excited a great deal of discussion.

An American authority cites some twenty experiments with guaiacol in phthisis, pneumonia, tertian ague, typhoid fever, rheumatic fever and influenza.

The dose was about thirty drops rubbed on the skin. In many cases the temperature had come down from 104° F. or thereabouts to the neighborhood of 100° within a few hours of the application, and remained down for several hours. In nearly every case, there was profuse sweating as the temperature descended.

The trouble with the method, however, was that most of the patients suffered more or less from a depression of the bodily powers, during the fall of temperature, in many cases of a nature extremely disquieting to the patient.

The prevalent sentiment regarding febrile manifestations seems to be that reasonable temperature, say not more than 103°, have in most cases very little disturbing effect either on the patient's com-

fort or on the outcome of the disease, and could be sufficiently controlled by absolutely safe remedies, such as diuretics, aperients, etc.

Such elevations of temperature correspond to that overproduction of heat which results from the natural effects of the tissues to destroy morbid material—the law of life being, that all increases of destructive metabolism is accompanied by increase of heat. So long as this material continues to irritate the tissues the fever must continue, the issue being in the majority of the cases, victory for the tissues.

To check this natural process forcibly without removing the offending matter, is an unwise and injurious proceeding on the part of the therapist. The only proper method is to remove the offending matter from the body, or, if this cannot be done, to strengthen the tissues in their struggle, avoiding all depressing drugs.

In hyperpyrexia, however, when the temperature remains above 104° for days, hurting the heart-muscle, or when the nervous system of the patient is greatly disturbed, and the excretions and secretions are checked, we have to do, not with the natural heat-production of the internal contest, but probably with derangement by the hot blood of the nerve-centres which regulate the production of heat and its escape from the body. In these cases active interference is called for. Cool sponging or bathing, etc., are to be preferred to the use of depressing drugs.

Occasionally the modern febricides may be used with temporary benefit. Here, along with antipyrine and acetanilide, guaiacol may be used, but with great caution. It might be used in less quantity, say less than thirty drops of guaiacol.

---

### MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

#### TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

*Medals.*—Faculty gold medal, W. J. McCollum; first faculty silver medal, H. N. Rutledge; second faculty silver medal, W. E. Crain; third faculty silver medal, H. A. Johnston.

*Scholarships.*—Third Year—First and second scholarships divided between M. Currie and A. K. Merritt; second year—first and second scholarships divided between W. Goldie and E. L.