

NOTES ON MEDICAL PROGRESS: OF INTEREST TO ALL.

DR. J. C. PEARSON, District Surgeon, Cape Colony, writes to the *Lancet* highly praising Soire Chlorinate in typhoid fever. He had been for several weeks in constant attendance in the thick of an epidemic of the disease, contracted it, treated himself with this remedy and was convalescent within a week. But, he says, "nothing crossed my lips except the medicine in an ounce of water and milk food," every three hours.

Dr. E. H. DEWEY, a Pennsylvania physician, we may here note, strongly deprecates the "feeding" of fever patients until the return of the normal appetite. If there is need of "feeding," nature, he says, "has been guilty of an enormous blunder." He does not give even milk, and has found it "entirely safe to await the normal appetite before feeding; the reliance for maintaining the strength being on the tissues, aided by such drinks as nature calls for with no obscure language." He has observed in cases so treated an increase of strength as the acute symptoms subside, and while still on tissue support.

AT THE recent annual meeting of the Virginia State Medical Society, Dr. C. A. Shepard, by invitation, read a paper on the "Turkish Bath in Disease," urging the great value of it as an eliminator of impurities in the body—impurities from retained excretions and the results or refuse of mental and physical labor. (*N.Y. Med. Jour.* 5th Dec.) The lassitude, depression, sense of weight in the limbs, and dullness in the head, occurring in the inactive man after meals, was attributed to poisoning with peptones, and the condition called "biliousness" to the formation of alkaloids. Many of the nervous symptoms which accompanied some forms of nervous dyspepsia were due to the formation and absorption of poisonous substances. Such instances showed that while the specific germ was a cause of disease, the chemical factor was more important." He closed with a strong appeal for the more general use of the Turkish bath in medicine.

THE *British Medical Journal* in referring at much length to Dr. Heron's late work on "Evidences of the Communicability of Consumption," says: We have said enough to indicate the nature and value of the evidence collected from the most various source, here presented to us. It only remains to add that the result is both a clear and a valuable contribution to the subject, and that its perusal will tend more and more to strengthen the view now widely prevalent that the time has come to give more practical effect to our views regarding the communicability of the disease than has hitherto been done.

IN THE *Mercredi Médical*, Dr. Féré takes up the assertion that patients undergoing bromid-treatment are more susceptible to infection than others, particularly to the influence of Koch's bacillus. During the epidemics of pneumonia at the Bicetre those persons under the influence of bromides proved most vulnerable. Animals inoculated with tuberculin virus after large doses of bromide began to lose ground immediately and soon died.

THE *Medical Record* (N.Y.) says there is a beautiful "row" in the German bacteriological world about tuberculin. Professor Koch has reproached his colleagues for not making investigations themselves, instead of waiting for him to finish the work, ignoring the fact that such work had been done by Cheyne, Hunter, Nencke and others. Hneppe deals severely with the accusations and shows how ill-founded they are.

TUBERCULOCIDIN is the name of a new substance Klebs has isolated from crude tuberculin, and which is claimed to act *specifically on the bacilli*. It is an albumose, and it, or its combinations with tannin or other precipitants, has an undoubted effect in tuberculosis, never exciting fever, and producing marked improvement. Hectic and night-sweats disappear; signs of catarrhal process in the lungs, together with cough and expectoration, rapidly diminish; appetite and body-weight increase.

AT A recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, in the discussion of a paper on Cystitis, Dr. C. P. Noble said: "I have heard no mention of benzoate of ammonia or benzoic acid. I have found these drugs of great advantage in foul alkaline urine. Rest a restricted diet, and leaving off meats, have had a good influence." Query how would the latter have succeeded without the drugs?

THE proximate cause of suppuration it is now said is, after all, always chemical, "for it has been conclusively proved that suppuration can be produced by chemical agents without the presence of microbes, and that when it is produced by microbes the action is really chemical." So writes the London correspondent of the *Therapeutic Gazette*. And that "This is a startling statement, but one which must, nevertheless, be accepted."

RELATIVE to nervous sequelæ after influenza, Dr. Church in a paper before the Chicago Medical Society said: When divested as far as possible from all falsifying circumstances, the lunacy reports of the Cook County Court show a marked increase in the number of persons becoming insane during the prevalence and decline of the disease.