

ian vaccination, that is, the prevention of rabies. Before Pasteur, the mortality of rabies was 40 to 47 per 100. Well, from past experience, wherever the Pasteurian method has been carried out, the mortality has fallen, on an average, to about 1.5 cent. This is an unquestionable gain and we cannot too highly emphasize these figures, when in the presence of those who gainsay Pasteur's method.

Surely, microbic doctrine is still very recent, microbiology is far from having said its last word. However, we are already able to throw some light in certain cases of doubtful diagnosis, owing to well-known microbes, easily recognizable by their form, their culture or their inoculation. How many diseases have to-day, owing to bacteriological investigations, lost the mysteries which surrounded their etiology and their nature! Do we not actually possess a better knowledge of typhoid fever, since Eberth has laid down precise notions concerning the pathogenic bacillus of that disease? We know where this microbe is located within, as well as without the organism. It is a well-known fact that it penetrates the economy, especially with the water we drink, and that it is carried away by the patient's dejections, through which contagion is propagated.

Koch, by his researches, has contributed to throw light upon the etiology of cholera, and Gamalicia has already, by his experiments on animals, succeeded in finding the vaccine against this affection.

Pneumonia, which has always been considered as the type of inflammatory diseases, "*a frigore*," has become an infectious disease, owing to the discoveries of Talamon, Frankel and Friedlander. Like all infectious diseases, it follows a regular cycle and is doomed, so to speak, to go through all its periods, which no remedial agents can cut short. Thus are explained these epidemics of pneumonia, held as so strange, and which have repeatedly been signalled in the past medical literature. Thus, again, is explained the crusade undertaken twenty years ago by Bennett, Todd, Behier and others, against those depressing means of treatment, such as bloodletting, and emetics, which had the pretension of cutting short the symptoms from the beginning.

Laveran has discovered the microbes of malaria, those merciless little beings which will not allow man to live with impunity on the soil they in-

habit. Several observers, amongst whom I am proud to mention one of our most illustrious compatriots, Dr. Osler, have all practically confirmed Laveran's observations, whose important and patient researches have been very eloquently extolled by Osler, in the following terms: "Working as he did, alone in Algeria, under circumstances the reverse of favorable, without proper laboratory equipment, without the stimulus to be found in the association of men in large cities, it is not only in the highest degree creditable, but most encouraging, that an army surgeon, actively engaged in the duties pertaining to his battalion, could accomplish so thorough a piece of work, requiring but little subsequent correction and receiving at all hands ample confirmation."

Wood and Formad, two Americans, have also discovered and isolated the microbe of diphtheria. Later on, Klebs has given us more precise notions on this microbe, and quite recently, Roux and Yersin have made discoveries which will hereafter guide the study of diphtheria in a new way. These authors, in showing that it is the secreted poison which in spreading, generalizes the infection, that the microbe remains localized within the false membranes, have at once destroyed the idea we had concerning this affection. It was, as we believed, a general disease at the first onset, angina, croup being only its manifestations; actually we know that the affection is at first local, that we are able, in combating it at the beginning, to prevent infection from taking place; and, if we can find the means of destroying in good time, in the membranes, the diphtheritic agent before it is generalized, we shall have considerably diminished, I fancy, the mortality of that terrible plague.

And how grateful must we not be to the illustrious German bacteriologist, Koch, for his important discoveries concerning tuberculosis? The preventive and curative treatment of this disease has recently received a direction which, doubtless, will check the increase of this formidable affection which decimates the populations of the whole world.

At last, Bouchard's investigations have thrown a new light upon the pathology of the digestive system. In pointing out the rôle played, in digestion, by micro-organisms, he has given us the explanation of the strange phenomena offered by those who suffer from what is commonly called gastric