

Dr. Robb, in *B.M.J.*, reports 30 cases treated with Flexner's serum and with 22 recoveries. Some were moribund when treatment was commenced.

Drs. Findley and White, of Montreal, report 5 cases treated in this way with only 1 death. No bad sequels in those who recovered.

Dr. Ernest Watt, in *Lancet* (London) reports 86 cases. His death rate was 32 per cent. Many of his cases were of a very severe type and this ran the mortality up.

Drs. Currie and Magreggor, of Glasgow, report 330 cases treated in hospitals in that city. Of these 105 were treated with the serum and 225 without it. Their experience was not quite so good as that of some others, but still justified its use.

Schone has treated 30 cases with a death rate of 28 per cent. as against 53 per cent. in other cases.

Dr. C. B. Ker, in a recent issue of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, reports his experience to the effect that with the serum there was a death rate of 42 per cent., whereas without it the death rate was 80 per cent. If from the cases treated those in a moribund condition he deducted, the death rate would have been about 20 per cent.

When the serum is injected into spinal canal the cerebro-spinal fluid becomes clear, and the meningococci soon disappear.

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### HEREDITY.

This subject is one that has called forth endless discussion. Our forefathers were firm believers in the doctrine of heredity. At the present day many of the beliefs of a former day have been pretty well upset. The biologist has been advancing his views on the permanency of the germplasm, while the bacteriologist has been pointing that it is impossible for the spermatozoon to carry the germ of syphilis, tuberculosis, or leprosy.

Of recent date several articles have appeared upon this vexed question. They have certainly done something to clarify the atmosphere surrounding the subject.

One of these addresses was the Harverian oration, delivered by Dr. J. A. Ormond, of London. After discussing the views that a microbial disease cannot be inherited in the proper sense of the term, he says "Suppose we assent to that, yet susceptibility to such diseases, in either a plus or minus direction—that is proclivity to them or power of resistance to them—may be inherited. And may not such susceptibility be first acquired and then transmitted?" This last sentence puts the case in a word. The tendency, not the disease, is the all important consideration.