

tion of the virus thus attenuated, the fatal dose of cholera did not kill, and that the serum from rabbits made immune against cholera protected guinea-pigs from that disease. (2) Inoculation against cholera intoxication starting from the intestinal tract. A disease like human cholera can be brought about in guinea-pigs by introducing cholera bacilli into the stomach, if the gastric juice neutralized by soda and peristaltic action prevented by opium. It is more like human cholera than that produced by intraperitoneal injection, and a greater degree of immunity is necessary to prevent it. Two intraperitoneal injections of the warmed culture will produce certain protection against it. (3) Protective substances introduced through the mouth. The amount of cholera bacilli given to the guinea-pig after the soda-opium treatment may be such as just to avoid a fatal result. A few days later an absolutely fatal dose is without effect although control animals invariably die. The author believes that this is the first time that immunity has been conferred experimentally through the mouth—a fact of much interest. (4) Protective inoculation by means of cultures treated with electricity. It was proved that a constant current of 20 milliamperes and of 24 hours' duration completely killed the cholera bacilli in a bouillon culture one day old. The poison was so weakened as to be of use in conferring immunity and acted like a culture kept at 70° C. for two hours.—*British Medical Journal*.

Miscellaneous.

Dr. Rudolph Virchow has been chosen as the new rector magnificus of the University of Berlin. It is said that he has been twice defeated when standing as a candidate for the rectorship. This has been due to political antagonisms. It is doubtful if, even at the present time, provided Prince Bismarck had still the reins of government, Virchow's friends could have secured for him the votes required to honour the university by putting its most eminent alumnus temporarily at its head.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR JOSEPH LISTER. — The eminent originator of modern antiseptic surgery, having attained the age of sixty-five, has been retired from his post as lecturer on clinical

surgery at Kings College Hospital, London. The rule requiring his retirement on account of age has been commented on quite freely as an unnecessarily harsh measure, for the distinguished surgeon is no less capable and active to-day than when he was invited down to London. The hospital does not altogether lose his services, for by a special act of grace Lister will continue for a year longer to occupy his position on the attending staff.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

THE *British Army Surgeon* has a sore grievance against the Duke of St. Albans. In a recent magazine article on one of the tropical colonies, His Grace mentioned incidentally that a military doctor, having mistaken one case of yellow fever for delirium tremens, proceeded to treat subsequent cases of "drink" as yellow fever, in order to avoid the repetition of the error. The noble duke probably meant it for a joke, but he forgot that he was writing for British readers, and until they "catch on" he must suffer for his imprudence.—*N. Y. Medical Record*.

The result of Bertillon's statistics is to show that the conjugal association, provided it is not prematurely entered on, is salutary to both sexes, though it is the husband who benefits most from the union. The dangers of childbearing neutralize its benefits to the female up to the age of twenty-five in France, and in Belgium and Holland even up to the ages of forty or forty-five. "The comparison," he says, "of the vitality of married women and widows above the age of fifty with that of spinsters is very significant. It shows that the dangers of maternity are prolonged beyond that time of life. A woman who, by her celibacy, has deprived her organs of their special function, who has denied to her youth the pleasures of love, and the labours and joys of motherhood, has not thereby insured her old age against the dangers peculiar to it, but, on the contrary, she remains more exposed to them. Love and motherhood, in the salutary conditions of marriage, far from exhausting vitality preserve and protect it in the present and in the future, because in France, the mothers of families, wives, or widows, at every period of their existence after the age of twenty-five pay a smaller tribute to death than the spinsters of corresponding age."—*Prof. A. R. Simpson*.