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Devoted to the interests of the General Drug Trade and to the Advancement of Pharmacy.

VOL. VII.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1895.

No. 1

Canadian Druggist

WILLIAM J. DYAS, PUBLISHER.

Subscription, \$1 per year in advance.

Advertising rates on application.

The CANADIAN DRUGGIST is issued on the 15th of each month, and all matter for insertion should reach us by the 5th of the month.
New advertisements or changes to be addressed

Canadian Druggist,

20 Bay St. TORONTO, ONT.

EUROPEAN AGENCY:

BROCK & HALIFAX, Aldermay House, Watling St.,
LONDON, E.C., ENGLAND.

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Review of the Year 1894.

During the past year considerable activity has prevailed on the chemical side of pharmacology, and in the more purely medical and bacteriological fields, first opened up by Pasteur, Brown-Séquard, and Koch. Pharmacy depends to a large extent upon the progress of therapeutics, and it is of keen interest, on the threshold of the new year, to take notice in what direction the progress is tending. For some years the tendency was strongly in favor of the organic derivatives which modern chemistry has so wonderfully developed, and to which we owe the existence of antipyrin, antifebrin, phenacetin, etc. But more recently the development has taken place upon the lines suggested by the late Dr. Brown-Séquard, and animal extracts have been prominently introduced and boomed. The past year will be historically remarkable for the rise and development of what is already known as serum therapeutics.

SERUM THERAPEUTICS.

After the discovery of the bacillus of diphtheria by Loeffler, cultures were made which were found to produce diphtheria in animals inoculated with it. The bacillus is accompanied by toxins which probably assist in producing the disease, and from these cultures toxalbumin may also be obtained. Roux further advanced the subject by showing that the introduction of these substances into the tissues conferred immunity. Behring and Kitasato next discovered, in 1890, that the serum of the blood of animals previously rendered immune by graduated doses of the toxin was itself antitoxic, hence the name of antitoxin. The treatment of diphtheria and tetanus by antitoxin is now on its trial, but it is important to note that most of the leading authorities insist that all the ordinary measures should be employed at the same time that antitoxin is used. The accounts, on the whole, are very favorable, but one or two notes of warning have been uttered in Europe against too high an expectation being formed. In handling antitoxin, care should be taken not to expose it to light more than can be helped, and all vessels, hypodermic syringes, etc., should be carefully sterilized by heat, carbolic acid, or absolute alcohol.

Professor Klebs, of Berlin, has recently patented *antiphthisin* for use in tuberculosis. It is prepared from the tubercle bacillus culture fluid by the addition of cresol, filtering and adding sodio-bismuth iodide in excess, then caustic soda, again filtering, and finally precipitating antiphthisin from the liquid by the addition of alcohol.

It is of interest to record here that Koch's *tuberculin*, the unfortunate forerunner of antitoxin, has been found of great utility as a diagnostic agent in bovine tuberculosis. Dr. Schweinitz, of the Washington Bureau of Animal Industry, says that by its use it will be possible, eventually, if not to entirely eradicate, at any rate to control and limit the disease among cattle. Another diagnostic agent is *mallein*, which is being extensively employed for the detection of glanders, and of which veterinarians speak in highest praise. In each case the liquid is injected subcutaneously, in doses of about 1 c.c., with the usual antiseptic precautions, and the temperature carefully taken, at intervals, to note if any decided increase has occurred.

NEW REMEDIES.

The year has been by no means unproductive of new remedies, although there is some sign of a diminution in the number emanating from German sources. Increased attention is being directed to the development of those previously introduced which appear to have most claim upon medical recognition. Thus, *thioform*, one of the innumerable substitutes for iodoform, has been strongly recommended in veterinary practice, and employed with success.

Amongst those which have been brought more or less into prominence during the year are the following: *Ferratin*, first introduced by Schmiedeberg, and isolated by him from the liver of the pig, has been produced artificially as an albuminate of iron. It contains 7 per cent. in an easily assimilable form, and has been employed with the most satisfactory results in the treatment of anemia. The dose is from 3 to 20 grains. *Calcium glytero-phosphate*, the calcium salt of glycerophosphoric acid, is a white crystalline powder, soluble 1 in 15 of cold water, but less soluble in hot. Glycerophosphoric acid is one of the products of the splitting up of lecithin, and is supposed to present the phosphoric

Europe has 383,290 blind, 230,200 deaf mutes.

In Holland more women than men die of apoplexy.

Of 10,000 deaths in England, 184 are from measles.

Bright's disease is most prevalent in Shanghai, China.