

CANADA

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GUAIACOL AND CREOSOTE IN PHTHISIS.

The latest vaunted remedy in pulmonary consumption is guaiacol, a constituent of creosote. It is highly recommended by Fränkel of Berlin. It is asserted by Fränkel that the good effects are to be attributed to the influence of the guaiacol on digestion and not to any alleged antimicrobial action. Granting both actions, it is difficult to understand the alleged striking beneficial results obtained. Guaiacol is no doubt an antiseptic, but beyond this it can have no beneficial action on digestion, and after all, what permanent good can we hope from an antiseptic brought into the stomach. Decomposition for the time being may be prevented, but that is all. How little, after all, can this influence those deep nutritional changes which play such an important part in the origination and progress of pulmonary consumption? The anti-bacillary treatment of consumption has proved utterly untrustworthy. If we are ever to gain a mastery over this disease it will be through a defensive treatment—a treatment where the bacillus tuberculosis is left alone and attention directed to improving the general nutrition.

MESMERISM.

The citizens of Montreal appear to be annually favored with the visits of a "Professor" who entertains them with the antics of persons in the mesmeric state. It is high time these injurious and disgraceful exhibitions should be prohibited by law. In France, Italy and Belgium it is against the law to have such exhibitions. Why should not Canada have a similar law in