

greatly distended and thickened; urethra and clitoris completely absent; both ureters greatly distended and their walls thickened; both kidneys completely disorganized and flattened out like a pancake. The cortical and medullary substances are completely riddled with pus cavities; each pus cavity is surrounded by a thickened adherent pyogenic membrane, and the pelves of both kidneys is full of purulent material.

The rareness of inversion of the bladder is my only excuse for publishing a report of this case.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

DEAR SIR,—Considering the universal importance of the recent discovery of Prof. Koch of the treatment of tubercular affections, it may be of interest to your readers to learn the results of experiments up to the present. Speaking generally, it may be affirmed that Prof. Koch has not over-estimated the importance of his remedy. While it remains in the experimental stage in the human patient, it must needs be crude and blurred by occasional fatalities. It is likely to be no exception to the rule that much practical knowledge is to be gained by careful investigations, before such a potent remedy can be used with impunity. Several thousand patients are at present under observation, and useful information is rapidly accumulating. In lupus it has passed the experimental stage and many cures are to be seen at the hospitals. In pulmonary consumption, the injections are given in much smaller quantities, and this necessitates a longer interval before a curative dose is arrived at. In from three to four weeks' time many cases of consumption will have undergone the course, and until then opinions must be very guarded. Yet incipient cases appear cured and many advanced ones benefited. Some forms are only slightly affected by treatment. Prof. Bergman is enthusiastic and at the polyclinic showed us numerous cases of tubercular joints and glands greatly improved and incipient ones cured. Dr. Lennox Browne, of London, a throat specialist, strenuously advocated the method, and at the Charité Hospital here we saw a typical tubercular ulcer of the larynx heal in less than a week. As a means of diagnosis it is very important, for

while an injection, say, of 0.001 c. c., gives no reaction in the non-tubercular patient, it on the other hand produces a decided impression in the tubercular, even when lying dormant. This is demonstrated in the case of a nurse in the Charité Hospital, who, when young, suffered from a tubercular disease of the bones of the hand and foot, and for the past seven years from lupus of the nose, which was apparently cured. The lungs were examined repeatedly, but found intact. At her own suggestion, 0.005 c. c. of the lymph were injected, with the result that in ten hours the nose presented the appearance as if an acute erysipelas had been implanted upon it, and next day a tubercular ulcer appeared in the trachea and signs of consolidation in the right lung, accompanied by free expectoration, fever and dyspnoea. This proved the presence of tubercle in these several places. The injections were repeated at intervals up to the present, when 0.005 c. c. produces no reaction, and the nose and throat are healed.

The importance of the discovery can be best estimated if we consider that one-half of all deaths in Great Britain, between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five, result from tubercle.

A new era has undoubtedly arrived in the practice of medicine, of which this is but the prelude to other triumphs of a similar kind. Already, indeed, immunity from diphtheria and tetanus is reported in the lower animals by inoculation, and no doubt cancer will soon succumb to treatment.

At this point the oft-mooted question forces itself upon us—whether, namely, the human race actually benefits in the long run by those artificial checks upon the operation of natural selection? Manifestly, by artificially rescuing from death those who are prone to disease, we increase the racial predisposition thereto and lower the standard of health. This artificial interference with the operation of natural selection is insignificant when compared with the workings of nature. But with regard to tubercle, it is no doubt more frequently the result of unfavorable external conditions than of inheritance, and we have abundant reason to believe that—by means of the destruction of the breeding-grounds of phthisis and by improved hygienic measures, together with proper precautions against infection—this hereditary tendency to the disease would die out in a few generations and that a healthy race would survive,