

appears to be very questionable. The question of the hereditary immunity from contagious diseases is even more interesting clinically. Prof. ———, of Budapest, who has experimented extensively in rabies, exhibited a dog born of parents who had each been subjected to prepared inoculations of modified rabic virus. This puppy on being inoculated with fixed virus (*i. e.*, virus of maximum intensity) was found to be perfectly immune. Of course this case is open to the objections that with the uncertain incubation period characteristic of rabies, the disease may have affected the animal in its modified form while still *in utero*. Then again some dogs are naturally immune.

On the whole, the solution of this problem appears to be far off, but even should acquired conditions be proved beyond cavail incapable of transmission, there is little doubt that their real or supposed transmission will continue for all time to form an important plank of the temperance platform.

A NEW ANTHRAX VACCINE.

Professor Hueppe, of Prague, has recently made an important contribution to the subject of the protective inoculation for anthrax. His method of investigation was extremely interesting. The present vaccine, an alternated anthrax virus, though very serviceable, is difficult to prepare and liable under certain conditions to regain its full virulence. Further, the person inoculating is always, after all, propagating genuine anthrax, though in a mild form.

In solving the problem of how to procure a protective vaccine, free from these objections, Hueppe resorted to the plan of investigating the chemical decomposition products of albuminoids (ptomaines) obtained by the action of various non-pathogenic bacteria in pure cultures. He finally in this way discovered a harmless organism found in garden earth whose ptomaines were almost identical chemically with those of anthrax. By previously inoculating cultures of this he succeeded in rendering white mice, the animals who, of all others, are most susceptible to even very attenuated anthrax, completely immune to inoculations by it, even in its most virulent form.