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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1891.

THE KOCH TREATMENT.

This is still a very absorbing topic among medical men, although fortunately, the excitement of the lay press has somewhat subsided. In the meantime, the treatment is being carried out with regard to the minutest details at the General Hospital, at the Western Hospital, and at the Hotel Dieu in Montreal; but owing to the great caution required in order to avoid fatal results, only small doses have been injected, and the improvement has accordingly been somewhat slow. But it is better to take some time in order that if no good is done, at least it may not be blamed for doing harm. An immense body of the profession is still opposed to it, the prevailing idea being that it will follow the fate of other highly vaunted methods of treatment. This of course, proves nothing against the remedy, because the general tendency of the profession is towards conservatism, and the very best methods which have come to stay, have nearly always been strongly opposed during many years by the majority of the profession, which however has adopted them when their merits have been sufficiently proven. This is as it should be. A great deal of loss of professional prestige has followed the too great credulity of practitioners in believing what has been said of different new reme-

dies, staking their reputation upon the success or failure of the latter.

There is, on the other hand, a small but compact body, composed largely of those who have seen the effects of the Koch treatment, and who firmly believe in its efficacy, either as a diagnostic agent or as a means of cure. The plan which Koch and his advisers have adopted for introducing the remedy to the profession, is to be commended; it has been placed first, not in the hands of those who would be likely to make money out of it, irrespective of its value, but rather in the hands of scientific workers, principally professors in universities and hospital attendants, who have the means for making accurate observations and who could have little or no object in exaggerating or depreciating its real value. A good deal of angry feeling and of ill natured remarks have been made upon Koch's determination to keep the method of its manufacture secret. Some of them state that he is not likely to divulge it as long as he and his two associates' exclusive possession of it continues to bring in what the Germans call the "colossal" revenue, of a million marks a year for himself and a quarter of a million apiece for his colleagues.

While we are anxious to see this, or any other remedy which has been vouched for by a scientific observer, given a fair trial, and while we shall be only too happy to record its brilliant success, we fear it will hardly realize the sanguine expectations of its inventor and his followers.

We may mention with some pride that two of the professors in Bishop's College, Drs. McConnell and G. T. Ross, were the first and only ones so far from the metropolis to visit Berlin for the purpose of observing on the thousands under treatment, the effects of the remedy and its method of employment. In response to the general feeling of the profession, that none of its members should continue to derive any profit, from a secret preparation, Dr. Koch has made a partial disclosure of its method of