

similar to that of calomel, and, like calomel, it seems to free the secretions of the mouth, and, at the same time, slightly relaxes the bowels.

The dose of salicylate I use is two to three grains every quarter or half hour for three or four doses or more, as recommended by Dr. Brunton, and begun when the headache first comes on: this is sufficient. A patient might carry dr. i of the powder in his pocket and take a little when a headache threatens, and he would soon learn to judge the proper dose by sight.

And as to diet, from which meat, cheese, beer, wine, and spirits are absent, I will only say that experience has more and more convinced me of its value in such cases.—*London Practitioner*.

OPPOSITION TO THEORIES OF MICROBIAL INFECTION.—At the meeting of the Alabama State Medical Association, held in Anniston on the sixteenth of last month, Dr. B. J. Baldwin reported twenty-five successive extractions of cataract without a failure. In the course of his remarks on these cases he said that he had used no disinfectants, and did not consider them necessary outside of hospital walls. He also said that he had been very much interested, and rather amused, at the scrupulous disinfection of the eyelids and eyeballs, and the hysterical anxiety to have even both eyes deluged in solutions of bichloride of mercury and boracic acid preceding every operation. He did not wish to be understood as denying that disinfection might often do good in the poisoned wards of old hospitals, but he did assert that anything more than cleanliness, in the extraction of cataract, outside of the hospital, was unnecessary and sometimes even harmful.

Then speaking of antiseptics in general, he continued: "I do not believe, furthermore, that there exists in all space a deadly venom ready and anxious to leap into every wound, to hasten the part on to destruction. There is bread that hath no leaven, and air as well without germs. Many of my friends may think this unpardonable heterodoxy, and my German confrères will no doubt stand aghast, but I am confident that they will sooner or later come to the conclusion that the world is not so soaked in bacteria as they at present imagine. It is difficult to conceive that an all wise and ever-merciful Maker would have so filled His universe with these infinitesimal death-worms, and that fresh air and sunshine are simply the danger-house from which they may be signalled when an opportunity to attack a wound arises. Cleanliness embraces all of the virtues of disinfection, and it is the sole element of its success."

These are certainly pretty strong words, but judging from the indications we see about us we may expect now to hear declarations of this sort from many different quarters. The opponents of bacteriological theories are beginning to assert

themselves with much more vehemence than they dared to use a short time ago, and, gaining courage as they proceed, they will give the advocates of the new doctrines a task in defending their theories. We are not sorry to see the signs of the approaching struggle, for, true or false, the microbial theories have, we think, been too readily accepted by the mass of the profession upon the authority of a few learned investigators. All the arguments pro and con have not yet been set forth as clearly as they might be; and an animated discussion will do good in establishing the truth or falsity of these latest theories of disease. But the conservatives must remember that talk is not always argument. The bacteriologists allege facts and experimental research as the basis upon which their theories rest, and their opponents must bring forward equally strong facts if they wish to gain the approval of the profession for their cause.—*Med. Record*.

SOME FALLACIES IN REGARD TO DIET.—1. That there is any nutriment in beef-tea made from extracts. There is none whatever. 2. That gelatine is nutritious. It will not keep a cat alive. Beef-tea and gelatine, however possesses a certain reparative power, we know not what. 3. That an egg is equal to a pound of meat, and that every sick person can eat them. Many, especially those of nervous or bilious temperament, cannot eat them; and to such, eggs are injurious. 4. That because milk is an important article of food, it must be forced upon a patient. Food that a person cannot endure will not cure. 5. That arrow-root is nutritious. It is simply starch and water, useful as a restorative, quickly prepared. 6. That cheese is injurious in all cases. It is, as a rule, contra-indicated, being usually indigestible; but it is concentrated nutriment, and a waste-repairer, and often craved. 7. That the cravings of a patient are whims, and should be denied. The stomach often needs, craves for, and digests articles not laid down in any dietary. Such are, for example, fruit, pickles, jams, cake, ham, or bacon, with fat, cheese, butter, and milk. 8. That an inflexible diet may be marked out, which shall apply to every case. Choice of a given list of articles allowable in a given case must be decided by the opinion of the stomach. The stomach is right, and theory wrong, and the judgment admits no appeal. A diet which would keep a healthy man healthy might kill a sick man; and a diet sufficient to sustain a sick man would not keep a well man alive. Increased quantity of food, especially of liquids, does not mean increased nutriment; rather decrease, since the digestion is overtaxed and weakened. Strive to give the food in as concentrated a form as possible. Consult the patient's stomach in preference to his cravings; and if the stomach rejects a certain article, do not force it.—*Technics*.