

involved in the production of that antitoxin—the scientific knowledge, the skill, the caution, the minutiae of detail? This thought is forced upon the writer through the perusal of a recent publication of Parke, Davis & Co., which deals in part with the subject of antitoxin manufacture. Here is a specimen chapter: “In the selection of the horses which are to act as the living laboratories for the production of the antitoxin we apply not commercial or academic knowledge merely, but, what is more to the point, veterinary skill. The animals must be vigorous and healthy. They are carefully examined, their temperature noted for several days, and the presence of glanders excluded by the delicate mallein test. It is the blood-serum of these animals that is to be injected into the patient later on, and no precaution can be regarded as extreme which contributes the slightest positive assurance of its purity. Not only must the horses be in good general condition when inoculated; they must be kept so. They are fed, stalled, groomed and exercised for no other purpose than to maintain to the full their self-protective, antitoxin-producing powers. Thirty miles removed from the noise, smoke and dust of the city is our stock farm, equipped with model stables and supervised by expert veterinarians. Here, at Parkedale, on more than three hundred acres of sunny slopes, at an altitude of six hundred feet above the level of the Great Lakes, live the horses which we employ in serum-production. Amid these favorable surroundings they maintain the physical condition so essential to satisfactory service as serum-producers. These are preliminary considerations. Young, healthy, well-kept horses, indispensable as they are, would be of little use in the elaboration of a reliable antitoxin unless the work of injecting them with toxin were conducted accurately, aseptically, systematically, and throughout a period long enough to allow physiological reaction up to the limit of attainable immunization. We have horses enough, so that there is no occasion to be in a hurry with any of them; the exact length of time required for complete reaction is determined in each individual instance by carefully scheduled observations. It goes without saying that in the preparation of the toxin and its injection into the horses, as