

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

MEAT INSPECTION.

At the forty-ninth annual meeting of the British Medical Association, which was recently held at Birmingham, Mr. Thomas Walley (Principal, Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh) said that the subject of meat inspection might be considered under three heads; (1) The necessity for the adoption of a system of meat inspection in this country; (2) the best method of carrying out meat inspection; (3) the principle that should guide using and condemnation of meat. The following are his remarks under the two first heads: (1) Meat inspection was necessary for the reasons (*a*) that the British were the greatest of flesh eaters in the world; (*b*) that the vast majority of the flesh-eating portion of the public were utterly ignorant as to the characters which distinguished good from bad meat; (*c*) that through the medium of animal flesh many lives had been lost, and many people had suffered injury to their health; and (*d*) that the flesh eaters had a right to protection from such dangers, and from the evil designs of those who profit by the trade in bad meat, and also by the fact that there was no law to compel them to declare from what source the flesh they sold had been obtained, nor to declare the nature of the disease from which an animal had suffered. (2) In order that meat inspection should be properly carried out three things were necessary, (*a*) that all animals intended for human food should be examined, prior to slaughter, by competent persons; (*b*) that not only the carcasses but the viscera of all animals intended for food should also be examined; (*c*) that those persons whose duty it was to carry out such inspection should possess the necessary knowledge of their work to enable them to discharge the duties devolving upon them in an efficient manner. Inspection of all animals prior to slaughter could not be carried out in all cases, for example, in those instances in which as the result of accidents it was found necessary to slaughter animals in places other than abattoirs, and also in the case of dead meat from foreign countries; but where animals were killed on account of

injuries or sudden illness, the internal organs should be sent to a licensed abattoir or receiving house with the carcase for inspection and as a guide to the inspector in his work; further, all private slaughter-houses should be abolished, or where, as in small villages or towns, a public slaughter-house could not be supported, they should be licensed and placed under the direct control of the sanitary authorities. He held that in all abattoirs there should be one or more lay inspectors, but they should not be empowered to condemn flesh; for this purpose a sanitary board (consisting of a medical officer, a veterinary officer and a lay inspector) should be established in connection with every abattoir; but inspectors (lay or professional) should only be appointed after submitting themselves to examination by a competent examining body, and the decision of the sanitary board should be final. The microscope should be brought into requisition in dealing with the flesh of animals that had suffered from micro-parasitic or parasitic disease.

SINGULARITIES OF DIPHTHERIA.

At the Manchester Meeting of the British Medical Association, Aug 1st, the Medical officer of that city, Dr. Hill, in his opening address in the section of public medicine, said: The fact that diphtheria is unlike typhoid fever, increasing instead of diminishing in the large towns is very remarkable, and at present inexplicable; for although there is good reason to believe it is dependent on emanations of an impure character, to some extent from sewer and drains, but more especially from soil charged with organic matter in a state of putrefactive change; and although it is observed to be very generally, if not invariably, associated with dampness of the dwelling and soil, either with or without concomitant fungoid growths, its causes are not made out with any certainty or definiteness. Its conveyance through the medium of milk is a feature interesting in itself, though not peculiar to this disease, and its suggested connection with the diseases of certain domestic and domesticated animals is a question of equal interest and importance, offering a wide field of investigation. The former principal incidence of the disease upon country districts