

This ferment, which is not toxic *per se*, elaborates within the organism a substance of tetanizing properties, comparable in its effects to strychnine. This secondary substance may be found in the tetanized muscles, in the blood, and sometimes in the urine. It resists prolonged boiling, while the products of the tetanus bacillus are rendered innocuous by exposure to a temperature of 149°. Certain conditions of temperature seem essential to this reaction. This will explain the immunity of frogs to tetanus in winter-time. Immunity, natural or acquired, artificial immunization, may be considered the result of influences that prevent, retard, or arrest this process of fermentation. It is probable that other products of microbic activity, said to be toxic, act equally as ferments, producing toxic matters within the organism. It may be that the paralysis and other late accidents of diphtheria can be explained in a similar manner. —*Medical Progress.*

**A New Sign of Internal Strangulation.**—Gangolphe (*Rev. de Chir.*, May, 1893), at the last meeting of the French Surgical Congress, directed

attention to a new sign, by means of which, it is thought, internal strangulation may be distinguished from other forms of intestinal obstruction. In a case of obstruction of uncertain diagnosis, laparotomy gave issue to a quantity of sero-sanguineous fluid similar to that found in the sac of an ordinary strangulated hernia. On exploration of the abdominal cavity, the cause of the obstruction was discovered in an internal strangulation of intestine in the foramen of Winslow. It occurred to the author that the presence of such sero-sanguineous fluid might be characteristic of internal strangulation, and so enable the surgeon to distinguish obstruction of this kind from those forms due to other causes. Experiments made on dogs have since confirmed this view, by showing that constriction of a loop of intestine by an elastic ring results in an effusion of sero-sanguineous fluid both into the peritoneal cavity and into the intestinal canal, the quantity of such exuded fluid being in proportion to the extent of strangulated intestine, and to the intensity of the constriction. This fact, it is held, is of practical value. Intestinal obstruction due to strangulation not being, like

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