fervor, the truth, the imagination, the emotion, the inspiration, the rhythm of soul he possesses, then his learning, his command of words his invention of metaphor, will of themselves accurately

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photograph- not the fact itself, for that is prose-but the fact in its living, moving, thrilling exaltation, and that is poetry.-W. R. BRADSHAW in Literary Life.

DISINFECTION BY HEAT.

 W^{E} have often had occasion in these columns to urge the necessity of some skilled inquiry being made by the Medical Department of the Government into the somewhat empirical methods of 'disinfection' now in vogue. It is satisfactory to find from Dr. Buchanan's recent annual reports that he is impressed with the necessity of investigations in this direction; and accordingly, a substantial share of the auxiliary scientific grant for the last two years has been devoted towards study of the questions of infection and disinfection in their various relations.

Scientific Results attained.—With the more scientific branches of this investigation we do not propose on this occasion to dwell. Exhibiting some valuable results for immediate practical application, particularly as concerns the power of certain gases to destroy an infection that is communicated through the atmosphere, and as concerns the value of acid reaction per se to all processes of disinfection by chemical agencies, these researches yield, on the other hand, an abundance of cautions against any too hasty expectation of our finding chemical agents endowed with the ability to kill those dangerous particles in which we are learning that infection resides. There is, however, one noteworthy point vouched for by Dr. Klein that places these researches in a promising light:-When it is possible to recognise, as in the case of anthrax, tubercle, and swine fever, the minute organisms that play an essential part in the discase, and to compare them with other and similar organisms which are not so mere infective as putrefactive it is found that chemical agencies which are wanting in destructive effect upon the putrefactive organisms have a power, often when present in extremely minute quantity, of arresting or destroying the life of the infective organism.

The line of investigation which is of most immediately practical importance-viz., the best means of disinfection by heat, was placed in the hands of Dr. Franklin Parsons, one of the ordinary staff of the Medical Department. IIe was careful to take destruction of the most stable known infective matter as the test of true 'disinfection.' Examining, in conjunction with Dr. Klein, the suitability for the purpose of this study, of the virus of swine plague and of tuberculosis and of anthrax—all of which admit of being, before and after experimental heating, put to the test upon animals-the observers soon came to the conclusion that, of these infections, anthrax material was the most resistant to every form of heat, and they were able to proceed on the assumption that such arrangements as would afford a heat adequate to destroy anthrax, not only in its bacillar but in its spore form, might be trusted to destroy the potency of infections matter generally. Having determined by a prolonged series of experiments the degree of heat to be attained, and combinations with mois ture in which the heat was best operative, Dr. Parsons examined the physical conditions for its production in the required combinations, and then continued his researches into practical questions concerning the mechanism by which the needful conditions for heat-disinfection could be so obtained.

The general results of the inquiry are as follows:—It was shown to be necessary so to arrange an apparatus that heat should penetrate bulky and non-conducting articles, and so that