

animals, it was found that in those which had been alcoholized, the introduction of poison germs were very fatal; whereas in other animals free from the influence of alcohol, the germs had much less power to infect the system and destroy their lives. In such diseases as tetanus, rabies, streptococcus, the resisting power of the animal was much reduced when given alcohol. Alcoholics do very badly in pneumonia.

Suppuration Due to the Diphtheria Bacillus.

Adolf Hala, in the *Wiener Klinische Rundschau* of December 9th, 1900, publishes a case of what he regards as suppuration due to the diphtheria bacillus. The trouble occurred in an anemic patient who presented a small tumor at the outer angle of the eye. The skin over the tumor was dark-red and smooth, and the mass presented distinct fluctuation. The tissue surrounding the tumor was infiltrated and firm, but there was no evidence of any injury to the skin. The glands at the angle of the jaw on the affected side were swollen; the antrum of Highmore and the nose upon the same side were not involved. The tumor on the eyelid was incised, and discharged a chocolate-colored mass, accompanied by a few drops of greenish-yellow pus. The tissues of the tumor were necrotic. Micro-organisms of the pus upon cultivation gave all the characteristic cultural and staining reactions of the diphtheria bacillus.

The Cause of the Prevalence of Appendicitis.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that appendicitis is really more prevalent now than in years gone by. Without being in any sense a new disease, it is doubtful whether what our predecessors called typhlitis or perityphlitis was exactly the lesion now known as appendicitis. At the last meeting of the French Academy of Medicine Dr. Lucas-Championnière, in discussing this question, pointed out that between the years 1882 to 1898 he only had to operate for iliac abscess thirty-four times, while he had nineteen in the two subsequent years, a contrast which appears to prove that iliac abscess is far more frequent now than formerly. He ascribes the greater frequency of appendicular lesions to a multiplication of the sources of intestinal infection, and he points out that appendicitis is most prevalent in countries like the United States and England, where meat enters very largely into the popular dietary, and, in his own experience, he states that he has met with the lesion especially in persons who habitually consumed unusually large quantities of meat. Another possible cause incriminated by this authority, is the discredit into which the use of purgatives has fallen. Formerly, he observes, it was the custom to purge young people at every change of season,