

sorption of toxin from this focus and its action on the central nervous system can be ascribed the progressive features which characterize most cases of this disease. Dr. Robertson at first considered this bacterium to be an attenuated Klebs-Löffler bacillus, but now looks upon it as a special organism and describes two varieties which he names *B. paralyticans longus* and *brevis*. These differ slightly in morphology as their names imply, and also in their fermentation reactions on sugars, the *B. paralyticans longus* type giving the sugar reactions of the diphtheria bacillus, while the *brevis* type ferments glucose and saccharose, but not the other sugars. Feeding experiments on rats were carried on with both types of these bacilli and led with both to the production of a paralytic disease in which the lesions are claimed to be similar to those of general paralysis. I need not further describe Dr. Robertson's claims except to say, that Dr. Robertson recognizes the widespread distribution of diphtheroid bacilli and holds that the mere presence of these bacilli on mucous surfaces is of little significance, but that actual tissue invasion is the crux.

O'Brien (6) in an examination of insane patients found diphtheroid bacilli in naso-pharyngeal mucosa in 98 per cent. of cases of general paralysis and in only 2 per cent. of other cases of insanity.

Eyre and Flashman (7) in an examination of 60 cases of general paralysis found that 16.6 per cent. showed diphtheroid bacilli, while in 78 other cases of insanity they were present in 17.9 per cent. of cases. These authors classify their bacilli into three classes, viz. — True *B. diphtheriæ* 5, and 5.1 per cent., Hoffman's bacilli 8.3 and 11.5 per cent., xerosis bacilli 3.3 and 1.2 per cent. respectively. These authors also examined post-mortem material in 10 cases of general paralysis and 26 cases of other forms of insanity. From the result of their investigations they fail to find any evidence of a causal association between diphtheroid bacilli and general paralysis.