

Sir JAMES GRANT (Ottawa) stated that when this society was organized thirty-two years ago, this subject was not even in its infancy. Since then great advances have been made, and the observation which has fallen from this gentleman upon its treatment, is one of vast importance, and such is the efficacy of the injection in curtailing or destroying the poisonous condition of the system that produced the erysipelas, that it was almost positive in its character. He trusted that Dr. de Martigny would continue his observations and throw more light upon the subject. He hoped he would be excused for making a personal observation here this morning. In 1860 he received a very severe blood poisoning, and was in a very feeble state of system and near the point of death. In 1863 he was induced to try the influence of the serum of ordinary vaccine, made into solution and injected into the system, which, at that time, was being used for the treatment of cases of skin disease, particularly severe forms of psoriasis, with good effect. He published this as far back as 1863. This was the initiatory stage, so far as he was concerned, in which serum-therapy had been employed for the cure of any disease. He was glad to know that this subject was taken up to such an extent.

Dr. IRWIN (Weston, Ont.) believed in serum-therapy, but it will not cure all cases. He instanced a case of scarlet fever he had had recently under his care, in which the serum employed for that disease had been used, an injection of 10 c.c. After two weeks the child developed erysipelas, and in twenty-four hours it was in a very bad stage. Then 10 c.c. of the antistreptococcic serum was injected on the second day, but without any result, and the child died.

Dr. de MARTIGNY, in reply, said you can use 10 or 20 c.c.; but we must know that the streptococci are not all of the same kind. There are different families of the streptococcus. It acts on a special family very powerfully. If of the same nature, we can use very small doses with good results; but the serum is prepared from one family, and thus we must use large doses to have any good effects. Besides that, we must be sure, when we employ serum, that we use a very powerful one. If we find the streptococcus in the beginning, we find the enemy itself. If we wait too long, then we come in too late, and then if we kill the microbe, we have no reason to hope to have any effect upon the toxine itself, only that it must be eliminated by the natural ways, the kidneys, skin, etc. He would like for one to try the serum, the best and most powerful and fresh; and next year, after fifty or sixty or one hundred of us have tried the serum, and come back a year hence, and relate our experiences, then we will be able to establish a good opinion of the treatment. We will then have something certain about it. It is being discussed about in Europe, and doctors in France pretend that it has