

some means of supplying the body with this element. Seeking a form that would resemble the phosphorus found in the nuclei of the human leucocyte, he chose nucleinic acid prepared from the roe of fish, and associated this with the arsenic compound in the relation of 4 to 1. To this compound he has given the name of "Histogenol," and after using it since the first of August last in 120 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, he believes he is justified in claiming for it remedial properties of a high order. Besides the amelioration of the ordinary symptoms and the disappearance of physical signs, which were marked, there was a noticeable decline in the phosphaturia and a well-marked tendency to the cicatrization of the lesions.

THE SUPPOSED INFECTIVITY OF DESQUAMMATION IN SCARLET FEVER.

THE Lancet, April 5th, has an article on this subject by C. Killick Millard, in which he questions the finding of the committee of the London Clinical Society, which in 1892 reported that the danger of infection was co-existent with, and by implication due to, desquamation. In view of the fact that infection sometimes appears after all visible desquamation has ceased, and that the disease is infective before this condition begins, the author of the paper wrote to 25 superintendents of fever hospitals for an expression of opinion, 21 sent replies, and of these 16 gave as their opinion (1) that they can adduce no evidence that desquamating epithelium is *per se* a source of infection; (2) they consider that too much importance has, in the past, been attached to desquamation as a source of infection; (3) their experience does not support the popular view that desquamation after scarlet fever is necessarily an indication that the patient is still infectious; (4) they believe that a patient may continue to desquamate for some time after he has ceased to be infectious; (5) they do not believe that it is necessary, in order to prevent the spread of infection, that patients that are otherwise ready to leave hospital, should be detained until every visible trace of desquamating epithelium has disappeared.

The author calls attention to the fact that he is merely trying to establish that the desquamation of scarlet fever is not infectious, *per se*, although it may convey the infection just as fomites; it does not contain in itself the infective organism in the same way that the scab of small-pox does. The eruption is an erythema—a process characteristic of a