

is not an animal entity and so destroys it as a specific cause. From a practical standpoint Koch's theory has received a severe blow in two cases which have recently occurred at Nothnagel's clinic. In both cases tuberculosis was diagnosed because bacilli were found in the sputa. Post mortem examination showed them to be examples of bronchiectasis. No tubercles were found at any point. Dr. J. Dreschfeld (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, Feb. 17th) holds that they are absent in non-tubercular chronic pulmonary affections (bronchiectasis, emphysema, fibroid pneumonia, anthracosis, catarrhal pneumonia, and syphilitic disease of the lungs). The possible end of Koch's theory will probably be to be laid on the shelf beside the parasitic etiology of diphtheria, and that the verdict upon both will be that cause and effect have been mistaken. The secretions become putrid from heat, and the bacilli are there naturally developed as part of the process of decay—they are not causative at all. Satterthwaite, in a paper before the N. Y. Academy of Medicine (*Med. Record*, 28th Oct., 1892), and subsequent discussion, shows that we have not yet sufficient grounds for believing in the bacillary and infective nature of tuberculosis, but that bacilli of a peculiar nature were frequently to be made out in phthisical sputa.

#### MYXŒDEMA.

Dr. A. McL. Hamilton's article (*N. Y. Med. Record*, Dec. 9, 1882) is a valuable summary of the principal papers upon the newly described clinical entity, myxœdema. He is inclined to the view that the disease is dependent upon a "lesion primarily of the bulb with secondary extension to the postero-lateral columns of the spinal cord and the spinal sympathetic ganglia." He thinks that an associated renal disease is the result and not the cause of the myxœdema.

#### CONVALLARIA MAIALIS,

or lily of the valley, is a new remedy for heart disease. The active principle is an

amorphous bitter glucoside called convallaramin obtained by treating the aqueous extract of the flowers by alcohol and chloroform. Dr. See's conclusions are as follows:

1. It is one of the most active cardiac remedies.

2. In doses of from half to one and a-half grammes daily of the aqueous extract of the entire plant, it produces on the heart, blood vessels, and respiratory organs, effects constant and constantly favorable.

3. It produces copious diuresis.

4. Therapeutic indications: in

(a) Palpitation due to exhaustion of pneumogastric.

(b) In simple cardiac arrhythmia with or without hypertrophy, with or without valvular lesions.

(c) In mitral constriction.

(d) In mitral insufficiency, especially when there are pulmonary congestions.

(e) In Corrigan's disease the peripheral arterial pulsations disappear and respiration becomes markedly restored.

(f) In dilatation of the heart with or without (i) hypertrophy, (ii) fatty degeneration, (iii) muscular sclerosis.

(g) In all cardiac affections indifferently from the moment that watery infiltrations appear, it is prompt and certain in its action.

(h) In lesions with dyspnoea the effect is less marked. In cardiac asthma its combination with iodide of potassium is most useful.

Finally, In cardiopathies with dropsy the convallaria surpasses all other remedies. It has no deleterious effect and no cumulative action.

Some efficient drug having the action claimed for convallaria, is certainly a desideratum in practical medicine.

A second claimant appears in

#### ADONIS VERNALIS.

In Russia the *adonis vernalis* is a popular remedy in cases of dropsy and heart disease. Experiments on its value have been made