

cases, is ever associated with staphylococci and streptococci, and is absent in certain well-defined diphtheritic affections (fibrinous rhinitis, conjunctivitis, etc.). When injected subcutaneously into animals, it provokes a simple œdema of the tissues. When placed in the throat of an animal it does not cause diphtheria if the mucous membrane of the throat is healthy. Animals put in contact with cases of diphtheria do not take the disease. He concludes, therefore, that the Lœffler bacillus cannot produce the diphtheria described and treated by Bretonneau.

Continuing his indictment against serum therapy, Dr. Hansemann states that: 1. According to the promoters of this method of treatment, the cure of the disease is effected by immunization due to the infection itself; 2. Immunization is brought about through the intervention of antitoxines. He contends that the first hypothesis is not yet proved; that with regard to the second, no one has yet seen the antitoxines; and finally, he states that the serum neither immunizes nor cures, and that it is directly injurious by the nephritis which it provokes.

In the discussion which took place after the reading of Dr. Hansemann's paper, Professor Virchow stated that he was quite in accord with the views of his assistant, Dr. Hansemann, in denying any specific value to the Klebs-Lœffler bacillus in the causation of diphtheria. He confessed, however, that the statistics, so far produced, were very favourable to the curative power of the serum. For instance, from about the 15th of March last, Behring's serum had been injected into 303 out of 533 children admitted to the Frederick Hospital for Diphtheria. In the 303 injected children the mortality was 13.5 per cent.; in the 230 who did not receive serum the mortality was 47.82 per cent. Prof. Virchow concluded that Behring's serum is really efficacious, and that every physician ought to use it in spite of certain drawbacks with which it is charged.

Drs. Von Bergmann and Holff supported the specific character of the Klebs-Lœffler bacillus in the causation of diphtheria. The former had tried serum in several cases, but had not yet sufficient data to form a definite opinion. In tracheotomy for all cases, an operation which he had done 2,586 times, his mortality had been 52 per cent. Dr. Körte remarked that the results obtained by serum therapy are much superior to those obtained by the ordinary means of treating diphtheria. Out of thirty-six patients treated for diphtheria, he had lost nine, and three of these were moribund when brought to the hospital. Of the thirty-six, eight only were light cases.

With regard to the albuminuria, resulting from the serum, Dr. Körte admits the soundness of the charge, but he does not consider that a sufficient reason for giving up a treatment which has produced results altogether remarkable in a very serious disease.

The last meeting of the Medical Society of Greifswald, in Germany, was entirely taken up with the consideration of serum therapy in diphtheria. Dr. Börger gave the results of his treatment of thirty patients who had diphtheria,