

often ran high ; hence the mortality rate could be greatly decreased by excluding such cases. [We had no idea of the composition of antitoxin, and no guarantee that two samples were alike. Such therapeutics could not be scientifically accurate.] The more he studied the subject, the speaker said, the more he became convinced that the antitoxin must die the death of tuberculin.

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THE PASTEUR GERM-PROOF FILTER.—Probably no one man that ever lived, has left to the world more valuable discoveries in medical science than L. Pasteur, who occupied the chair of geology, physical science and chemistry in Paris, from 1863 to 1875, and afterwards the chair of chemistry at Sarbonne. During his numerous laboratory experiments, it was absolutely necessary to their success to separate germs from their cultivative media, and the knowledge of this induced both Pasteur and Dr. Charles E. Chamberland to study the problem of sterilization of liquids. In 1884 their efforts were crowned with success, when after years of experimenting, they perfected the "Bougie filtrante" or filtering tube, and it immediately became known that the germs of drinking water were susceptible to exclusion by filtration through these tubes. In the following year these tubes, under the name of The Pasteur Germ-Proof Filter, were submitted to the Academy of Science of France, where they received unqualified endorsement, and immediately the Pasteur Filter became in Europe a staple article of trade. The appearance of a tube of a Pasteur Filter is cylindrical in shape, to which it owes its name, "bougie." It has henceforth the greatest possible filtering surface with the least possible volume. The filtration is carried on from the outside to the inside of this hollow tube ; the inside of the "bougie" being in contact only with sterilized liquid, is kept entirely free from pollution. These "bougies" are made from a combination of peculiar clays found only at Sevres, France, and by having been baked at a very high temperature they are not affected by chemical process. The filters are made in various styles to suit the requirements of all classes of work. One of the most important features of the Pasteur Filter is the readiness with which it can be thoroughly cleaned. The bougies have simply to be removed and the outside scrubbed off with any kind of hard brush, its characteristic feature being that it cannot be penetrated by any form of suspended matter, liquids alone passing through its walls, leaving filth and germs on the outside without any exception. We here quote from a report prepared for the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association of England last July : "The very best filter yet devised cannot rid the water of all micro-organisms, with the sole exception of the Pasteur Filter.