

ally tested each germ (culture) before allowing the others to do so; and six persons (3 male, 3 female) knowingly took part in the tests and in no case did any symptom of the disease follow.

The germs were swallowed in each case, and were given in milk, water, bread, cheese, meat, head-cheese, fish, and apples—also tested on the tongue.

Most of the cultures were grown by myself—some from stock tubes furnished by Parke, Davis & Co., and one tube furnished by the Toronto Board of Health through one of their bacteriologists.

As the tests were carefully made, they prove that there is not the danger from germs that bacteriologists claim; they also may stimulate other Canadians to undertake further experimental work, for the actual test on man decides the truth of the theory.

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THE TREATMENT OF VARICOSE LEG ULCERS.

In most surgical divisions of the out-patient departments of our hospitals varicose leg ulcers are considered as almost if not quite an unmitigated nuisance. The treatment of these cases is usually handed over to the junior members of the staff, who are generally allowed or even encouraged to pursue their own inclinations as to methods of treatment unhindered, or with few words of advice from the senior surgeons. Unfortunately, most of them were taught that at some stage in the healing of an ulcer salves should be applied. Furthermore, the idea that salves is "soothing" to the ulcer is firmly implanted in the minds of the laity; hence both patient and doctor have felt that the right thing was being done when boric, zinc oxide, or some other ointment or Lassar's paste was applied to the ulcer and the treatment completed by the application of one or two compresses, held in place by a gauze bandage. This process has often been repeated every two or three days for weeks, months, sometimes even for years, and still for some mysterious reason the ulcer has not been cured. Such patients often migrate from clinic to clinic until finally they may be fortunate enough to fall into the hands of someone who appreciates the principles involved and carries out treatment on a rational basis.

When a varicose ulcer is first seen at the clinic usually two things are indicated: (1) the ulcer must be cleaned up and stimulated either by curetting, or by the application of a strong solution of silver nitrate, or some other such agent, and (2) the chronic passive congestion must be