

Selections.

A Clinical Study of 293 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In a comprehensive article, comprising a clinical study of 293 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis treated at the Winyah Sanitarium, Asheville, N.C., in 1905 and 1906, Karl von Ruck and Silvio von Ruck, of Asheville, N.C., speak well of the results they have obtained with the watery extract of tubercle bacilli in the various stages of the disease. Other drugs were but rarely employed, but styracol (guaiacol cinnamic ester) gave satisfaction. The following remarks are thus made concerning tuberculous affection of the intestines. In sixteen cases the clinical symptoms were sufficiently marked, even if tubercle bacilli had not been demonstrated in the feces, to leave little if any doubt of the presence of ulceration. In nine of the cases the symptoms subsided, and there was no return on the resumption of an ordinary diet. In four cases the symptoms were much improved, while in three cases they could be only more or less controlled. In these cases opium with lead acetate appeared most serviceable in checking the diarrhea, the addition of the lead salt bringing striking benefit. The much better results in the present cases, as compared with the cases of the authors' last report, may, of course, be matter of coincidence, and they fully appreciate that so small a number of cases does not justify conclusions of the therapeutic value of remedies employed, but they are nevertheless of the opinion that the use of styracol in large doses and for prolonged periods was of material aid in the treatment of this most undesirable complication of the cases discharged, as also in a number of others still under treatment.

Diarrhea was noted in six cases, apparently of non-tuberculous origin and of indeterminate immediate cause, except in one case, in which amyloid of the intestine was suspected and eventually confirmed.

In the other five patients the diarrhea has existed for periods of several months to a year prior to coming under the authors' care. The stools were found liquid, evacuations occurred from two to six times a day, unattended by pain or tenesmus; the feces contained more or less undigested food remnants, especially meat fibers; there was neither pus nor mucus to suggest ulceration or catarrh. Under dietetic regimen some improvement was noted. The administration of digestive ferments and acids, astringents, or bismuth had apparently no influ-