

of membrane formation, just as it is a well recognized fact that membranous formations in the throat are frequently non-diphtheritic. The diagnostic feature is the presence in true diphtheria of the Klebs-Löffler bacillus. A physician with a good microscope can make the diagnosis himself, either by a direct examination of the membrane or a swab, or better, by inoculating culture material, incubating for 14-18 hours, and then examining the growth. Culture materials are now easily obtainable from most large medical appliance and drug firms. One of the best forms is that adopted by the Chicago Board of Health, and consists of a small tin box filled with sterile solid blood-serum. This is lightly inoculated by brushing it over with a swab from the suspected throat, and the patient's body can be used as an incubator in the absence of a thermostat. An early diagnosis is of importance here as regards the anti-toxic treatment, and not only in this specific treatment, but in leading to strict isolation and other precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

In the various affections of the stomach, more particularly the chronic disorders, valuable information can be obtained as to the condition of the stomach and the indications for treatment, by chemical tests. Microscopical examination here will only be of importance in cases where presence of blood is suspected, or in some cases for the detection of bacteria, crystals and such like.

I cannot go fully into the other conditions in which the microscope is an important accessory to diagnosis. One of the most important of these is the pathology of the blood. By a careful examination of the blood we can differentiate between the various forms of anæmia. We can readily separate chlorosis from pernicious and secondary anæmias and from leukæmia. As I have already written in the *QUARTERLY* on this subject I need say no more, except that by blood examination we can readily make a diagnosis of malaria, positive.

Another disease in which we find scientific methods important as a means of diagnosis is typhoid fever. Widal's serum-diagnosis has been so much in the medical journals of late that no further reference is required. This method is certainly one of great value as a means of diagnosis in typhoid.