

that in some respects our democratic methods do not always conduce to that permanency of the civil service and freedom from political complications which are necessary to efficient performance of scientific work. On the other hand, the unlimited capital and keen competition of the large commercial houses supply in many ways facilities for the production of standard articles, and their maintenance at a high standard of excellence, which perhaps few individual States could attain to. Personally I am convinced, however, that no matter which scheme is adopted, there is demanded before everything else adequate legislation whereby from year to year qualified public vaccinators must be appointed in every municipality, who shall be empowered to vaccinate systematically all children born in any year, and that through the responsibility laid upon them, and the routine methods established, such men will become experts in the art, and will gradually obtain such a store of information as will prevent the use of any except standard vaccine, and by the care exercised be able to anticipate and prevent those accidents which we have already referred to as seriously injuring the credit of this greatest triumph of modern medicine.

THE EXPLORATORY METHOD OF RIB-RESECTION IN OLD PYOTHORAX.*

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While the principle of Schede, to resect the pleura with the ribs in old pyothorax should always be followed, the method which he advises for that purpose is not to be commended. It is not advisable to outline any definite typical plan, starting with a horseshoe flap.

As recommended in the January issue (1897) of the *International Medical Magazine*, that rib should be selected which apparently forms the centre of the ceiling of the cavity. This can generally be ascertained by probing the pyothoracic fistula. After a long piece of this rib is removed, the cavity can be explored

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