

DR. WOODBRIDGE'S TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Dr. George Duffield, Professor of Medicine in the Detroit Medical College, gives his experience with this method, in the April number of *Medicine*. He first outlines the pathological conditions found in this disease; he regards Eberth's bacillus as the cause of typhoid fever. Uffelmann's investigations as to the resistance of the bacillus to drying and transmission through air are mentioned; they showed that it resists drying and retains its power of development in earth 21 days, in white sand 82 days, in house and street sweepings 30 days, and on linen from 60 to 72 days, the duration being longer in a moist atmosphere. The changes in the intestine, mesentery and spleen are due to the action of the bacillus on their lymphatic glands, causing infiltration, necrosis, ulceration and cicatrization. Directly the poison begins to act on the intestinal walls, the colon bacteria become pathogenic, and increase enormously, and constitute the first cause of secondary infections.

The blood is vitiated, the white blood-corpuscle is destroyed, and the whole body suffers from constitutional infection due to the long-continued fever, absorption of toxins, and destruction of blood-corpuscles.

In the Woodbridge treatment we have a well devised attempt to employ antiseptic methods which have yielded such brilliant results in surgery. We no longer hear of "laudable pus," but, on the contrary, it is now regarded as an avoidable evil. Intestinal antiseptics is the corner-stone of this treatment, and under Dr. Woodbridge's method it is pushed to an extreme limit. According to the Doctor, three formulas are employed. The first consists of:

No. 1.

Podophyllum resin.....	1-960 grain.
Mercurous chloride, mild.....	1-16 grain.
Guaiacol carbonate.....	1-16 grain.
Menthol.....	1-16 grain.
Eucalyptol.....	q. s.

and should be given every fifteen minutes during the first twenty-four hours, and oftener if necessary during the second twenty-four, until not less than five or six free evacuations of the bowels are secured during each of two consecutive days.

On the third or fourth day of treatment the following tablet is to be given at intervals of one and two hours :

No. 2.

Podophyllum resin.....	1-960 grain.
Mercurous chloride, mild.....	1-16 grain.
Guaiacol carbonate.....	1-4 grain.
Menthol.....	1-16 grain.
Thymol.....	1-16 grain.
Eucalyptol.....	q. s.