

of the State that any rational means to that end must be upheld. The defendant was placed in no worse position than others. The circumstance that Section 9 of the statute to an extent exempts certain classes, such as osteopaths and pharmacists and those practising Christian Science, mind cure, massage and others, did not render the statute unreasonable as to the defendant nor deny to him the equal protection of the laws. The conviction was sustained.—Com. vs. Zimmerman, Massachusetts Supreme Court, 108 N. E. 893.—*Med. Record.*

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## MEDICAL PREPARATIONS

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### BACTERIAL-VACCINE THERAPY.

The treatment of infectious diseases with preparations derived from corresponding micro-organisms long since passed the experimental stage, and bacterial vaccines may be said to occupy an assured place in therapeutics. These vaccines, as is doubtless well known to most physicians, are suspensions, in physiologic salt solution, of killed bacteria. An important effect of their administration is to raise the destructive power of the patient's leucocytes against the specific living invaders. Injected into the human organism, bacterial vaccines have an effect similar to that produced on the horse by the introduction of toxins or killed cultures: they cause active immunity. In other words, the administration of a dose of bacterial vaccine stimulates the patient to produce an additional supply of antibodies, thus enabling him to resist the disease.

Bacterial vaccines have several advantages over the ordinary forms of medication. They are determinate or specific in the respective infections in which they are indicated. Their employment relieves the patient of the necessity of frequent "dosing." Being administered by the physician, or under his direct supervision, they enable him wholly to control his cases.

Some idea of the scope which bacterial-vaccine therapy has come to assume may be gathered from an announcement which Parke, Davis & Co. are making in current medical journals and which physicians will do well to consult. Twenty-three vaccines are listed in the advertisement. They are supplied in 1-Cc. glass syringes, 1-Cc. glass bulbs, 5-Cc. vials and 20-Cc. bottles, all sealed in a manner that guarantees the sterility of their contents. The syringes are designed for the use of physicians who desire to inject the fluid without first removing it from the original container.

Parke, Davis & Co.'s bacterial vaccines are scientifically prepared, and precise therapeutic results may be confidently expected from their administration.