

osmotic pressure and the electric conductivity diminish; the last is in proportion to its antitoxic power. The determination of the electric conductivity may serve as a practical guide of its antitoxic powers.

GERMS IN THE NORMAL RESPIRATORY TRACT.

MUELLER.—Germs in the respiratory tract of healthy animals. (*Muench. med. Woch.*, 1897, No. 49.) It has been a question whether in the organs of healthy animals germs occur. Nocard stated that during digestion bacteria passed into the chyle and blood, while Neisser found the chyle usually free from bacteria. The observations as to the presence of organisms in the bronchi and lungs have likewise been conflicting. Mueller studied under aseptic precautions rabbits, guinea-pigs and cats, and found in most cases the lungs sterile, and that the nose, pharyngeal cavity and larynx are important protective organs against bacteria. The pneumonias which are produced by cooling animals, Mueller thinks are due primarily to a lowering of the resisting power of the protective organs. His cooling experiments show hæmorrhage and œdema of the lungs and erosion of the gastric mucous membrane. Only in a few cases were bacteria present, and then in such small quantities that they could not be considered as the causative agent. It is probable that the cooling leads to changes in the blood and that the bacterial invasion is only secondary.—*From Cent. f. inn. med.*, 1898, p. 141.

FERTUSSIN, A NEW REMEDY FOR PERTUSSIS.

FISCHER, E.—Pertussin, extractum thymi saccharatum. (*Deut. med. Woch. Ther. Beil.*, p. 49, 1898.) In treating his five children who had whooping-cough, Fischer obtained only poor results with tussol, and the children soon refused to take it. He then tried pertussin and was surprised at his results. In a few days the clinical

picture changed to that of a mere simple catarrh, with the disappearance of the cyanotic attacks. The children took it readily. To the two-year child he gave a teaspoonful four times a day, to the three-year-old one he gave one-half tablespoonful, and to the six and ten year old children he gave three-quarters of a tablespoonful. In acute and chronic laryngeal catarrh and bronchitis, pertussin aided the elimination of the mucous, so that it was coughed up without straining, and in a man of forty years with laryngeal tuberculosis it caused a cessation of the muco-sanguinous secretion in two days; the mucous came easier and the voice became clearer. He believes the favorable action due to a lessening of the spasmodic cough and a loosening of the mucous secretion without increasing its amount. In emphysema it soon controlled the attacks so that the patients kept it constantly on hand. He recommends it to avoid the difficulties in anæsthetizing emphysematous subjects and in laparotomies where post narcotic coughing would tear out the stitches. Pertussin simply consists of the fluid extract of thymian (*Geru. Phar.*), mixed with sugar and syrup in the proportion of one to seven. A similar preparation is obtained by mixing the oleum thymi with syrup, but this is apt to irritate the throat and stomach.

LESIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND CROSS STRIATED MUSCLES.

STIER.—Experimental investigations on the behaviour of cross striated muscles after lesions of the nervous system. (*Arch. f. Psych.*, v. 29, No. 1.) Three parallel series of experiments on rabbits and dogs were performed to ascertain the results of lesions of the nervous system upon the striated muscles. The first consisted of the removal of the motor area for a definite region, the second in a hemisection of the cord, and the third of a resection of a peripheral