

# THE Canadian Medical Review.

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## Original Communications.

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### Notes on an Epidemic of Herpetic Tonsillitis.

BY JOHN R. HAMILTON, M.D., FORT DOVER, ONT.

THE discovery of antitoxine has made the study of the etiology and pathology of diphtheria one of supreme importance at the present juncture, as many of the profession must look with suspicion at the marvellous success claimed by its advocates, and the 60 to 80 per cent. of recoveries will be taken for some time to come *cum grano* *satis*, notwithstanding the assertion of the pathological microscopist that the Klebs-Loeffler bacilli was discovered in all cases prior to investigation or experimental treatment by injection. The rank and file of the profession may well be justified in having their doubts, both as to the possibility of all being cases of true diphtheria, and also to the great and unusual success being due wholly to this new serum, when we learn from the city of Berlin that such pathologists as Behring, Kaufmann and Virchow express with vigor entirely different opinions as to the curative or prophylactic powers of this much-lauded equine serum. The opinions of these earnest investigators must not be taken flippantly, as they have been formed no doubt after careful and pains-