

Selections.

Treatment of Tuberculosis with Tubercul.

In the treatment of tuberculosis, Hermann Frey states that he has had very good results with "tuberculol," a preparation made directly from tubercle bacilli. The tuberculol is preserved with phenol, and forms a clear, aqueous liquid of such strength that 1 Cc. will kill a healthy guinea-pig weighing 250 Gm. The necessary amount to kill a guinea-pig of 250 Gm. is termed 1 d. l. (dosis letalis), and this amount, together with other dilutions in the decimal system (0.1 d. l.; 0.01 d. l., etc.) are put up in sealed vials. The initial dose must be very small (1-10,000 to 5-10,000 d. l.). The injections are continued every day until a slight reaction follows. After eight to ten injections, the strength of the solution has generally been increased ten times. The susceptibility varies considerably, and is by no means absolutely proportional to the severity of the process in the lungs. A local reaction without general symptoms, such as fever, is a very favorable sign, as such cases are frequently cured. As soon as a reaction is seen, the last dose is repeated, and if no tolerance is established after a second repetition, a solution ten times weaker is employed. With the appearance of a reaction, the injections are no longer given every day, but after intermissions varying from one to two to eight days.

Tuberculol is not only much stronger than most tuberculin preparations, but, if given carefully, will rarely disappoint. It possesses the advantage of being uniform in strength and very concentrated, so that only small amounts of fluid need be injected. The treatment results in the formation of an area of hyperemia and the serous transudation about the foci, and in the production of anti-bodies in the system. Great care should be exercised in injecting cases already far advanced in the disease. Intercurrent, febrile conditions must be regarded as a contraindication. Occasionally the sputum becomes slightly bloody during the treatment, but this need not alarm. The dose should here be increased more carefully. Even in mixed infections with streptococci, good results were frequently observed.—*Wien klin. Rundschau*.

Therapeutic Action of the Iodides.

James Burnet read a paper on the therapeutic action of the iodides, showing that they were alteratives which influenced metabolism and secretion, at a recent meeting of the Therapeutic Society, London. He said they had long been used against syphilis and scrofula, and more recently for gout, rheumatism, aneu-