

causation : in empyemata the tubercle bacillus, the streptococcus, the pneumococcus play the chief part. The loculi may even contain different kinds of fluid. The author refers to a case already reported by him (*Epitome*, May 28th, 1892, par. 408). He now records a second case, in which the patient had an empyema on the left side. After 750 c.cm. of pus had been evacuated, the physical signs over the præcordium remained unchanged. At the necropsy, in addition to a purulent pericarditis and an endocarditis, another empyema was found between the mediastinal pleura and the lung, a situation which the author thinks a frequent one for the second empyema. In the third and fourth cases there was a serous effusion in patients with early phthisis, and it was only when the second loculus was tapped that the physical signs cleared up. Want of correspondence between the amount of fluid and the extent of the dullness is an important sign. Thus the fluid should be measured, and the chest examined after the evacuation. The persistence of fever in the absence of other cause for it should suggest a second loculus. The prognosis depends on the primary disease, and on the recognition of the condition. If the effusions are serous and small, the salicylates are useful. Tapping may be required. If the effusion is purulent, the chest must be incised, and, according to the author, a piece of rib removed. If the second loculus cannot be opened through the first, it also must be opened from without.—*British Medical Journal*.

Phenacetine for Urinary Troubles in Advanced Life.—Dr. Traill Greene (*University Med. Magazine*) says the majority of such troubles present symptoms of excess of uric acid or urates in the urine, and the subjects probably suffer from rheumatism or gout, and acquire the habit of too frequent urination. In many cases there may be an irritability of the bladder.

During the past year the writer attended a patient for whom he had prescribed for a year or two for frequency of passing urine. While under treatment of another affection, he had occasion to prescribe a dose of phenacetine and was glad to learn the following morning that the patient had passed the night without a call to pass his water. The medicine was continued in doses of ten grains

for several nights, and rest for eight hours, from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m., was produced. The patient did well until the summer vegetables and fruit, like tomatoes, were eaten, when night troubles from frequent urination returned. Phenacetine was prescribed, with immediate relief. The particulars of another similar case are also given.

Phenacetine may be recommended, if for no other reason than that it allows the bladder to be distended for eight hours, and so prevents the reduction of the capacity of the bladder, as is known to occur when the urine is discharged as soon as two or three ounces collect in it ; so that the organ must be distended by injections of water to restore it to its usual capacity, in order to relieve the sufferings of such as have a bladder contracted by frequent urination.

As to the action of phenacetine, it is possible that the bladder is irritated by the urates, and this is allayed by his medicine, similarly as it acts in rheumatism and neuralgia. The quantity of urine is not diminished, as far as has been observed.—*Med. Times*.

Immunity in Diphtheria.—The experiments which Behring, in the Institution for Infectious Diseases, and Aronson, in the Laboratory of the Agricultural College, Berlin, are conducting with the object of providing a serum, or a product from serum, which can be used in convenient doses for the treatment of diphtheria, have been attended with a very considerable degree of success ; but it appears that there are great difficulties in raising the degree of immunity sufficiently high and at the same time preserving the animals in health. There can, however, be little doubt that sooner or later the zeal and talent of these experimenters, or some of their fellow-workers in the same field, will be rewarded, and that we shall have, in a convenient and reliable form, a specific remedy against one of the most fatal diseases.—*Medical Record*.

Two Cases of Cocaine Susceptibility.—No. 1. Young man, florid, stoutly built, healthy and robust, farmer. Operation for stricture of lachrymal duct. Had used about one-half of the contents of small dropper, which held about thirty-five drops of four per cent. cocaine solution. While waiting a moment, attention was called to the