

it to say that it is quite opposed to the views of Koch. "Coma bacilli," they find, are not peculiar to the cholera process, being found also in other intestinal affections; they are not present in the ileum in cholera in "almost a pure cultivation;" they do not behave differently from other putrefactive organisms when cultivated; and they do not communicate cholera to rabbits, cats, or monkeys, when introduced into the circulation or intestinal canal. Other experimenters, as professors Finkler and Prior, of Bonn, and Klebs of Zurich, had arrived at a similar conclusion, and last month, in a paper published by Dr. Emmerich of Munich, the author ignores the coma bacillus as the cause of cholera.

AS OPPOSED TO THESE INVESTIGATORS, however, we find that at a meeting of the London (Eng.) Medical Society, Jan. 12, '85, Dr. Heron showed specimens, under the microscope, of the coma bacillus, and of the Finkler-Prior bacillus, and drew attention to the fact that there exists a striking resemblance between the two bacilli when examined in this way. Dr. Heron also showed specimens of these two bacteria, growing in nutritive gelatine and upon prepared potatoes, and he pointed out the striking differences which distinguish their respective modes of growth. The differences in growing in nutritive gelatine and upon potatoes are so marked as to make it easy for anyone to tell at a glance to which category either one of the growths belongs. These two facts, namely: the resemblance of form under the microscope, and the pronounced difference which distinguishes the growths of the two bacilli in artificial cultivation, emphasize, Dr. Heron said, the importance of bearing in mind that mere resemblance in form is not sufficient to justify the assertions that two organisms are one and the same. The bacillus of Finkler and Prior, is evidently, as stated, a putrefactive organism, "as anyone can ascertain for himself by the use of his sense of smell," and as it differs in such

a marked degree in its mode of growth in artificial cultivation from the coma bacillus, the assertion of Drs. Klein and Gibbes (of the English Cholera Com.), that the latter "does not behave in any way differently from the other putrefactive organisms" is not correct.

A GOOD SUGGESTION was made by Dr. Heron, that there should be some way of diagnosing with certainty any case of cholera, especially when an epidemic threatened, and that some medical men ought to be trained to be at once able to apply the test in doubtful cases. The Finkler-Prior bacillus, known to be a putrefactive organism, is associated with cholera nostras—ordinary English cholera, and was believed upon its discovery to be identical with the coma bacillus of Koch. It is probable that Koch will soon be heard from in reference to these opposed views. He has significantly observed, it is said, that two years ago, representations similar to these now made in relation to his coma bacillus were made in relation to the bacillus of tubercle. Truly, as we not long ago observed, there is much yet to be learned in connection with contagiums.

"THE AGE OF MELANCHOLY," is the heading of a long leading article in a recent number of the London (Eng.) *Medical Times and Gazette*, and in its decadency it sends up a wail of despair:

"Were it not better not to be,
Than live so full of misery?"

It has become so cranky and so contradictory in its views, so domineering and yet so fossilized, that want of patronage, probably, makes its existence a burden. It is absolutely insane on the vaccination question, and regards the Jenner process as the "only preventive of small pox" we possess. Yet time and time again it gives, as if unconsciously, reports of epidemics of the disease being stamped out in certain and various localities by means of isolation and quarantine alone. It winds up its "melancholy" article as follows: "The spirit of melancholy is abroad. L'Allegro is being driven from our shores, and Il Penseroso is in the ascendant.