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A BRIEF NOTE ON ANTI-DIPHTHERITIC SERUM OR DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXINE.

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The history of all therapeutic discoveries involving complex physiological problems, has a charm for most medical men, many of whom are highly gifted disciples of science in its broadest sense. Cicero says, "*E nihilo nihil fit*," but it is curious to note what slight and fortuitous circumstances may lead towards or elicit a discovery which may thereafter confer great benefits on the human race by leading up to the successful treatment of one of our most fatal maladies. Baginsky rightly remarked that 'it was difficult to fix the exact therapeutic value of anything in diphtheria. About ten years ago, in conjunction with others, I gave small doses of precipitated sulphur, supplemented by insufflations of powdered sulphur. This plan certainly proved efficacious in many cases. Still later it seems to have suggested to Dr. R. Brownlow Martin the idea of treating this disease by means of "tabloids" of magnesium sulphite grs. 5 in each, at frequent intervals, employing in addition insufflations of the same into the pharynx and larynx, by means of a [special insufflator with movable glass barrels and an apparatus which at the same time depresses the tongue (manufactured by Burroughs, Wellcome, & Co., London). This and the "tabloids" are a great improvement in method, and according to Dr. Martin's little book on the subject, highly efficacious. These facts have been amply proved by clinical reports in the current journals. Despite these facts, diphtheria cases treated in hospitals show the hideous mortality in mixed cases of 50 per cent. and upwards. On the other hand, the injection of anti-diphtheritic serum obtained from immunized horses by Roux's method, has reduced the previous rate of