

Editorials.

ELIMINATIVE AND ANTISEPTIC TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

WE publish in this number a reprint from *The New York Medical Record*, March 10th, 1894, of an article by W. B. Thistle on this interesting subject. Our readers will remember that a paper by the same author, on this subject, appeared in *THE PRACTITIONER* for April, 1893. In the first paper the author points out that, so far as the treatment of typhoid is concerned, the dictum "knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers," has been most apt. The profession still kept its attention fixed on that vague and intangible something called typhoid, instead of turning to the consideration of some plan to get rid of, destroy, or in some way mitigate, the effects of the parasitic growth which was now known to be the disease. By the long-continued efforts of generations of medical men, working in ignorance of the true condition, almost every medicinal or therapeutic procedure had been advocated, and in time discarded. The unfortunate patients had been bled, purged, sweated, bathed, starved, and fed. When one stops to consider, there are really not many therapeutic channels, if one might so term them. These soon became exhausted. Gradually, a deep-seated distrust of medicinal treatment possessed the medical mind and, curiously enough, this feeling became intensified the clearer the nature of the condition became. It was hard also to get away from the time-honored traditions and precepts. Even when the nature of the disease became as clear as noonday, this let-alone policy prevailed, in utter forgetfulness of the fact that, although the available therapeutic instruments may be few, yet, like the carpenter's axe and saw, if they are intelligently applied, marvellous results may be obtained.

We are sure that the revival of interest which these papers have created cannot fail to be productive of good. The author may be congratulated if he has succeeded in disturbing the lethargy and spirit of helplessness, with reference to this subject, which has possessed the writers and teachers of Europe, and of this country, if one may judge them by their books and