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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

(No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.)

ANTI-DIPHThERITIC SERUM.*

By J. J. CASSIDY, M.D., Toronto.

The new method of preventing and curing diphtheria by immunized serum continues to attract the attention of the medical world. Now that the first moments of excitement and admiring infatuation have passed away, scientists have devoted themselves to a calmer and more reflective examination of the subject. As generally occurs in similar cases, a want of confidence and a distinct reaction against antitoxine would now be in order if clinical experience, which goes on ceaselessly recording its observations in different countries, did not support and encourage the somewhat rosy expectations which were first formed of its success.

In Germany, strange to say, the country in which the Klebs-Löffler bacillus was discovered, and in which later on the immunizing serum of Behring was first used with success, the reaction goes so far as to deny the existence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus, in order to demonstrate with greater certainty the unreasonableness of Behring's antitoxine.

At a recent meeting of the Berlin Medical Society, Dr. Hansemann read a paper strongly condemnatory of serum therapy. He began by stating that the Loeffler bacillus is not the bacillus of diphtheria as understood in the clinical meaning of the word. It is wanting in 30 per cent. of the

* Read at first quarterly meeting of Provincial Board of Health.