

CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE

ANTITYPHOID VACCINATION IN NORTH AFRICA.

The bacteriologists of the Algerian Pasteur Institute have been actively employed during the last sixteen months in preparing anti-typhoid and antiparatyphoid vaccines for the French North African army, using Vincent's method of preparation, and also finally heating the vaccine to 58 deg. C. for an hour. In Algiers, what is commonly known as typhoid fever has been very carefully studied by Roussel. In two and a half years between 1911 and 1913 he made 303 positive cultivations from the blood of typhoid patients. The microbe grown was the *Bacillus typhosus* in 227 cases, *B. paratyphosus* A or B in 72, the A variety being more often met with than the B; in the remaining four cases Roussel found two new intermediate types of paratyphoid bacillus which he terms C (three cases) and D (one case). The vaccine employed was designed to protect against the first three of these. Each cubic centimetre contained 400 million typhoid bacilli, and 200 million paratyphoid A and C combined. Four inoculations were made, containing respectively $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ c.cm. of the vaccine, in each case. Over 100,000 soldiers were treated in 1914-1915; it was noted that the local and general reactions were no more severe with the mixed vaccine than they had been up to October, 1914, when a simple anti-typhoid vaccine was in use. The results of the employment of the mixed vaccine are described as most satisfactory throughout the North African army. In Algiers itself both typhoid and paratyphoid A and B fevers are endemic among the unprotected civil population; several hundred cases are treated yearly in hospital. But no case has occurred among the fully inoculated soldiers of the garrison of Algiers; nine have been recorded among the few non-inoculated soldiers, and five among those who were in process of being inoculated.—*British Medical Journal*.

PHENOLPHTHALEIN.

Dr. J. C. McWalter, of Dublin, communicates to the *Lancet* for November 20, 1915, his conclusions as to the value of phenolphthalein as a laxative, after having exhibited it over 1,000 times. Among other things, he states: It is singularly painless as a rule. This is its chief advantage. Further, it does not seem to lose its effect, at least, until it has been persisted in for a considerable time. Some observers state that it occasionally becomes absorbed, acting on the kidneys and causing