

that antitoxin would have scored a still greater success had it oftener been applied before the diphtheria poison had established a fatal foothold. The same results may yet be attained by the Maragliano serum in pulmonary phthisis; but the nature of this latter disease is such that the antitoxin can never assert its power so rapidly and so decisively as in diphtheria. It is in private practice that Dr. Maragliano and his followers have had most success, and for reasons that are obvious. In such cases the tuberculous patient generally sees the consultant in good time; he is surrounded, as a rule, with the comforts and the careful tendance of home; and he can often reinforce the cure by change of scene. In hospital practice, on the other hand, the patient, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, is far gone in the disease; his strength has been reduced by pyrexia or hæmoptysis; his nights have been impaired by harassing cough; and his resisting power is often low through mal-nutrition. And yet even in this latter less favorable type of case Dr. Maragliano has had most encouraging success. His followers have been not less fortunate.

Dr. De Renzi, the dean of Italian clinicians, who for twenty-nine years has held the chair of clinical medicine at Naples, announces that he has had forty-four cases of cure by the Maragliano serum in his wards, and equally gratifying results in his private practice. Like all others of his colleagues who have used the antitoxin, he found its efficacy most marked when the patient was seen early and when complications were at their minimum. One lesson he profited by in his clinic, and that was (as Maragliano himself had inculcated) not to despair when even 200 injections had failed to achieve the effect desired. He observed, indeed, that while improvement had declared itself even in the most intractable cases, he had only to suspend the treatment for a brief interval to witness the rapid exacerbation of all the symptoms and to resume the injections in all haste. Serotherapy, said Dr. De Renzi to a colleague the other day, has a great future. It is rational and physiologic; it corresponds to what we moderns understand by the surviving physiologic forces.

In his own clinic Dr. De Renzi had had convincing proof of the action of the Maragliano serum "*contro le proteine tubercolari.*" With the "tuberculin" of Koch inoculated in phthisical patients to the amount of five milligrams he had obtained a strong reaction; but applying the same "tuberculin" to patients already under the Maragliano treatment the reaction was much less strong, showing that, *pro tanto*, they had become immunized against the "*proteine tubercolari.*" In proportion as he increased the number of