

to call attention to the importance of paying special care to the reaction of the test culture media. Bouillon cultures showing after 24 hours growth of typhoid at 37° C., a slight uniform cloudiness only, and quite free from scum or sediment, offer the greatest security against pseudo-reactions. I find that such cultures can be obtained by using bouillon just on the verge of litmus acidity, giving no blue whatever to the red paper. From 3 per cent. to 4 per cent. of normal alkali (I employ 3.5 per cent.) are required to make this bouillon neutral to phenol phthalein.

Cultures which give a heavy bouillon growth are the ones which are most liable to give pseudo-reactions, *i.e.*, to clump in a deceptive manner spontaneously or with non-typhoid blood. If the culture is too acid the reaction may be defective. With a proper culture, I have never met with the typical reaction apart from typhoid fever. On the other hand, by employing certain incorrect methods of preparing the culture I can obtain at will very perplexing pseudo-reactions with a large proportion of non-typhoid bloods. This may be the explanation of a number of anomalous published results, though the difficulties can be also doubtless avoided by other means than those indicated here.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WYATT JOHNSTON,

Bacteriologist to the Board.

INFANTILE SCURVY.

The American Pediatric Society is making a Collective Investigation of Infantile Scurvy as occurring in North America, and earnestly requests the cooperation of physicians, through their sending of reports of cases, whether these have already been published or not. No case will be used in such a way as to interfere with its subsequent publication by the observer. Blanks containing questions to be filled out will be furnished on application to any one of the committee. A final printed report of the investigation will be sent to those furnishing cases.

(Signed).

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