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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1895.**THE ANTI-TOXIN TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.**

From reports gradually coming in from reliable sources, it would appear that the anti-toxin treatment of diphtheria is more than a passing fad. Although it does not save every case, there seems to be no doubt that it reduces the mortality very considerably. The most satisfactory proofs come from the Children's Hospital in Paris, where the treatment is being tested by Dr. Roux himself, and where, in order that other things might remain equal, exactly the same treatment was carried out by the regular physicians of the institution. The result was that the death rate, which had remained steadily for years at a certain figure, has come down nearly one-half. There are, however, unfortunately certain sources of error which must be eliminated before coming to a conclusion. For instance, while the treatment was almost hopeless, only the most serious cases, such as those requiring tracheotomy, would be sent to the hospital; but on parents learning that by sending their children early to the hospital the new treatment was almost sure to save them, many cases in the early stage, and probably many cases which are not diphtheria at all, would be received, and those cases would have recovered under any treatment, so that the normal balance would be disturbed, and the anti-toxin treatment would receive credit to which it was not fairly entitled. Several of our leading prac-

tioners, such as Dr. McConnell and Dr. G. T. Ross, have assured us that they were satisfied that the remedy is a valuable one, as in every case the most marked improvement immediately set in, the membrane coming off and the breathing becoming easy. We think the same method should be followed here as we have noticed above has been followed in Paris, namely, to continue the best treatment hitherto known and to employ the anti-toxin as well. Everyone admits that the latter can do no harm, and those who have tried it believe that it does good. There is one obstacle to its trial being carried out on a large and conclusive scale, and that is the great cost; but this will probably soon be removed by the establishment in Canada of a serum laboratory. In the meantime we should petition the government to issue sharp and peremptory orders to the customs officials, to admit it free of duty until such time that it can be produced in sufficient quantity in the country. We cannot comprehend the calibre of the official mind which taxes anæsthetics, vaccine or anti-toxin.

SHOULD PHTHISIS BE STAMPED OUT?

Although Koch's tuberculin has not apparently fulfilled the high hopes held out by its inventor as a cure for the dread disease in man, it has during the past year come to be recognized as an infallible diagnostic agent of tuberculosis in cattle, and by its aid thousands of tuberculous animals have been discovered and slaughtered in Canada and the United States. The process is an expensive one, but Governments and individuals consider that it will pay in the long run to incur an expense of several million dollars even, in order that the disease may be stamped out from the herds, many of which are of the highest breed, the disease being more common unfortunately in high grade animals than in the commoner ones.

In view of these facts, does it not seem strange that so little has been done towards stamping out of this greatest of all scourges of the human race? It has taken many hundreds of years to find out that it was not an inherited disease, but that it was on the contrary acquired by contact only. But now that no educated person, either in the profession or even among