

certain affections, but that antecedent changes have been in operation in the organism, and that these constitute the first step toward the disease, developing conditions necessary to the growth of the bacteria."

Jacourd (*Brit. Med. Jr.*, Feb. 20, '97) divides "microbial diseases" into two distinct classes: those which are of extrinsic origin; and those of intrinsic origin, because the microbes may exist in a healthy living organism without injury to the latter, "becoming noxious only in consequence of changes undergone in the organism itself." And, "in almost all diseases morbid autogenesis by changes in the organism itself is the rule.

In view of these facts; of the great deal we yet have to learn in respect to bacteriology; and of the known effects of auto-intoxication, faith in the bacterial *origin* of diseases may be naturally enough shaken. And it is perhaps not surprising that we occasionally see items and articles on the "passing of the bacillus."

The Prophylaxis of Puerperal Fever.—Starzewski (*Prezeglad Lekarski*, Nos. 25 and 26, 1898) investigated the action of Marmorek's anti-streptococcus serum in preventing rises of temperature during the puerperium in Prof. Cyzewicz's clinic in Lemberg. 288 women received consecutive numbers on admission. Those with odd numbers received no injection, the first 56 of the even numbers were given an injection of 5 grammes, and the rest (88) 10 grammes of serum directly after being delivered. They were all under observation for 12 days, and every rise of temperature above 99°.5F. was noted. The following results were obtained:—The temperature was raised in 17.36 per cent. of those who received no injections; in 7.14 per cent. of those who received 5 grammes; in 5.68 per cent. in those who received 10 grammes of serum. It was also observed that jaundice was less frequent in the children of those women who had had injections.

Fever from Coitus during the Puerperium.—Dr. Frances H. Lee (*Woman's Medical Journal*, August, 1898; *Medicine*, November) reports the case of a quintipara in whom each confinement had been followed by chills and fever about the fifth day. In the confinement for which Dr. Lee attended the patient the temperature and pulse were normal until the fifth day, when the patient began to have chills in the morning. The temperature was 103°.5F., the expression anxious, abdomen slightly distended and tender, and the patient complained of headache. On enquiry it was ascertained that the patient had had coitus on the night of the third and the morning and night of the fourth day—thrice in thirty-six hours. Interdiction of coitus reduced the temperature, and the patient recovered. It was found that coitus had taken place on the third and fourth days after each confinement, and that the chills and fever followed.