

[Reprinted from THE MEDICAL NEWS, December 10, 1892.]

A NEW METHOD FOR THE CULTURE OF DIPHTHERIA-BACILLI IN HARD-BOILED EGGS.¹

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ALL who have had experience in the diagnosis of diphtheria by culture-methods agree in praising their accuracy and promptitude. Unfortunately, the general practitioner, who must feel most of all the need of some accurate method for the prompt diagnosis of doubtful cases, does not seem disposed to avail himself of the new process, and the prophecy of Roux and Yersin, that the method would come into general use, appears still to be far from fulfilment.

Thinking that the chief obstacle lay in the difficulty of obtaining serum for the culture-medium, M. Sakharof² recently suggested a simple plan by which slices of hard-boiled eggs, cut with a sterilized knife and placed in sterilized tubes, could be made to replace the serum.

Of this method I have no personal experience, but should imagine that the main objection would still exist, as the physician might not have test-tubes about him at the time when they were most needed.

¹ From the Pathological Laboratory of McGill College.

² Annales Inst. Pasteur, June, 1892.