

Miscellaneous.

Bibliographic Treatise on the Antitoxic Properties of Renal Serum and its Application to the Cure of Uremia.

It was in 1898 that, for the first time in France, Professor Tiessier, of Lyons, conceived the idea of combating the autotoxic effects of uremia by the subcutaneous injection of blood serum extracted by aseptic bleeding of the renal vein of a goat.

Such a practice, inspired as it was by the teachings of Brown-Sequard, with respect to the internal glandular secretions and by the fine experimental researches made by Vitzou, of Bucharest, was perfectly rational. Furthermore, the first clinical applications made by Tabure, of Bucharest, with the aid of the defibrinated blood taken from the renal vein of a dog, as also the trials made by the Hotel-Dieu, in Lyons, with the blood of a goat, were in the highest degree encouraging.

These curious facts, well studied, repeated and popularized by important theses, especially by those of De Lignerolles (Lyons, 1898), and of Lawis (1905, Lyons), were, however, but slightly disseminated at that time. The difficulty of obtaining serum well prepared, the lack of technical knowledge as to its use, and the limited number of observations made on its effects—all these retarded their diffusion to any great extent, and it is only as the result of new researches made by Prof. Tiessier at the Medical Clinic in the Hotel-Dieu, at Lyons, that the renal serum therapy entered on a course of practical application and became a recognized system of practice productive of beneficial results.

These are the last facts that were communicated to the Academy of Medicine at its session of Oct. 7, 1908.

Having been aided in its clinical and experimental researches by Dr. Lucien Thevenot, and being in possession of a serum most carefully prepared by the Bacteriological Institute of Lyons and of the South-East, under the direction of Professors Arloing and J. Courmont, M. Tiessier has been enabled to test this method of treatment under conditions specially favorable for technical observation, and not only to study minutely the biological properties of the renal serum, its antitoxic value and its physiological activity, but also to apply it in a number of cases of uremic intoxication sufficiently numerous to enable him to watch its practical effects and to judge of the right condition in which it is to be applied.

The study of this method is far from being complete; ex-