

## Editorial Abstracts.

### MOBILITY OF TUBERCLE BACILLI.

SCHUMOWSKI.—Mobility of the tubercle bacilli. (*Cent. f. bakteriologie*, v. 23, 1898, p. 838). In freshly prepared drop cultures Schumowski saw the tubercle bacilli move slowly across the field. As this movement ceased after forty-eight hours he concluded that it is not a Brownian movement. He was unable to prove the presence of flagellæ.

### STROPHANTHUM.

STAHR.—Therapeutic use of strophanthum. (*Therap. monatsk.* 1898, p. 245). From a clinical study of the use of strophanthine in cardiac and other cases Stahr comes to the conclusion that Merck's crystalline strophanthine per os is not a very powerful poison and can be given with impunity up to 20 mg pro die. 1. That in doses above 15 mg it increases diuresis. 2. That it is not cumulative. 3. It has no untoward action, and 4. that patients notice that the attacks of palpitation of the heart lessen—but he is undecided as to whether it is merely due to the rest in bed.

### ANTITOXIC PROPERTIES OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BOMSTEIN.—Antitoxic properties of the central nervous system. (*Cent. f. bakter.* Abt. 1, v. 23, 1898, p. 584.) Guinea-pigs and rabbits, which are sensitive to the diphtheria poison, were bled to death and the remaining blood washed out with 0.6% NaCl, the brain and cord were then ground up to an emulsion and mixed with the diphtheria toxine in vitro. On injecting this sterile mixture into animals they promptly die. In other words, in the central nervous system, there was no neutralizing body, con-

trary to what has been proved by Wassermann and Takaki for the tetanus poison.

### TYROSIN AS A VACCINE FOR VIPER VENOM.

PHISALIX.—Tyrosin, a chemical vaccine, for the venom of vipers. (*Soc. de Biol. compt. rend. hebdom.* 108, v. 5, 1898, p. 153). Tyrosin which was isolated from various plants—as the dahliatubercles—mushrooms, etc., was injected into guinea-pigs and 24 to 48 hours later a lethal dose of the venom of vipers. They suffered from no symptoms of snake poisoning. This immunity is marked at the end of twenty-four hours, and can last twenty-five days. If it is injected simultaneously with the tyrosin death is only delayed—so that it is not an antitoxine. If the two are mixed in a test tube the mixture is as toxic as the venom itself, therefore it is not a chemical antidote. He considers it as a new chemical vaccine for viper venom, and that it is interesting from being the first example of the plant juice possessing immunizing properties to a venom.

### BIOLOGY OF THE GONOCOCCUS.

LAITINEN.—Contributions to the knowledge of the biology of the gonococcus (Neisser). (*Cent. f. bakteriologie Abt.* 1, 1898, v. 23, p. 874). For the cultivation of the gonococcus the author prefers human serum or cystic or ascitic fluids mixed with bouillon or agar (Keefer's formula) to the new nutrose-pig-serum-agar of Wassermann, which he considers uncertain. Probably the cystic fluids are more suitable than the ascitic and their alkalinity should best correspond to 12 to 25 c.c. of normal caustic soda solution. The gonococci live on this medium fifty-one days. During the