

those of surgical tuberculosis with a low opsonic power which can be increased by appropriate inoculation. In such we often get well-marked improvement. It is as yet doubtful to what extent patients with a high opsonic index will benefit from the treatment. Some may, but the treatment must be carried out with great circumspection, for a high opsonic index may herald the incidence of a negative phase, and an injection given at such a time may simply precipitate or accentuate the fall. Here, we can only test the matter, subsequently being guided by the clinical course of the case.

All this may appear to some to be somewhat speculative, but we may remark that, while experimentalists may theorize, in this case their theories are based on a fairly firm substratum of facts. The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, and the value of any theory may be deduced from the manner in which it works out. Let us take, for example, Wright's first attempts at applying his views to therapeutics. He published 20 cases of furunculosis, sycosis, acne, most of a severe and intractable type. These he treated by inoculations of dead staphylococci, giving from 500 to 2,500 millions at a dose. His results have been strikingly good. Bulloch, too, treated 11 staphylomykoses by Wright's method, namely, 15 cases of facial acne, 4 of furunculosis, and 2 of sycosis. With the exception of one case of sycosis, all were chronic and had defied ordinary therapeutic measures, which had, moreover, been carried out with great thoroughness, as most of the patients were medical men or students. Of the 11 cases 9 have been completely cured or greatly improved. One case of boils and one of sycosis have shewn a great tendency to relapse and could not be regarded as cures. It is probable that the method of inoculation may eventually be extended to other fields of surgical practice, though as yet little has been done in this direction. Glover Lyon has recorded a case of pneumococcic empyæma, which, in spite of operation, did not do well, in so far that nine weeks after the resection of the rib there was considerable discharge. The inoculation of 100 millions of pneumococci at once gave rise to improvement and after two subsequent inoculations complete cure was brought about. Wright has, also, published the histories of a number of cases of localized tuberculosis treated by his method with Koch's new tuberculin, cases which had been regarded by the hospital clinics as incurable. The result has been to shew that the new tuberculin has marked healing properties, and, moreover, that minute doses often suffice to bring about a cure. In this field the future is distinctly hopeful.

The value of the character of the opsonic index in the diagnosis and prognosis of disease is still under discussion and a final answer on this