

attacks was sufficiently long to preclude the possibility of the second and third attacks being relapses.

"Considering the fact that all cases of second attacks of infectious disease are not recognized, and that the deeply-rooted belief in immunity among the laity, as well as among physicians, often renders the diagnosis of a second attack difficult to establish, one is led to believe that repeated attacks of infectious diseases may not belong to the rarities in medicine. This consideration also tends to establish the analogy between the immunity conferred by natural and artificial processes. The quantitative principle of immunity suggested by Erlich and systematically elaborated by Behring applies also to the natural processes of immunization.

"It seems probable that so many difficulties would surround an exact determination of the period of immunity conferred by a given attack of infectious disease, that no exact statement of the safety period could be applied to particular cases. If a child is taken with scarlet fever, we have no means of estimating the amount of toxine absorbed, or the length of time the so-called natural antitoxine of the disease is present in effective quantity. The period of immunity conferred by the injection of given quantities of the artificial antitoxine of approximately known strength is a matter of doubt and study; and the estimated length of the period of immunity, as defined by Behring himself, has lately been changed. If the period of immunity is so difficult to compute in a case where we can approximately calculate the amount of antitoxine injected, how much more difficult will it be to calculate that conferred by the absorption of an unknown amount of toxine, and consequent antitoxine production?"

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PHENACETINE BAYER.—Dr. J. E. Clausen, of Philadelphia (*Times and Register*, March 9th, 1895), claims that this drug is specially valuable in the following conditions: 1. In scarlet fever he finds phenacetine very useful, especially when there is much rheumatism. It acts promptly and effectively in relieving the acute pains, while at the same time it reduces the fever. 2. In the treatment of rheumatism both acute and chronic, it is very valuable in relieving the pains. It will succeed in many cases where the salicylates and iodides had failed. 3. In spinal meningitis it is of marked use in relieving the severe pains and controlling the fever. It acts as an excellent sedative to the nervous system, and guards the patient against some of the worst and most distressing symptoms. Of all the drugs that reduce fever and relieve pain the author thinks that phenacetine is the least depressant on the heart.