

ing with tubercle they found that iodoformized tubercles produced miliary tuberculosis more readily than the untreated virus. It is interesting to observe in the present article how other noted (German investigators by introducing iodoform into cold tubercular abscesses believe they have proved the antitubercular action of iodoform.—ED.]

#### NEUROLOGY.

##### Social Dangers of Hypnotism.

*Apropos* of the aids to therapy of hypnotism, we have Burot de Rochefort, speaking recently at Toulouse before the French Academy for the Advancement of Science, in strong language: *de l'auto-suggestion en médecine légale et des dangers sociaux de l'hypnotisme*. He said, "Many persons, in disturbing themselves regarding the social dangers of hypnotism, forget that every medallion has its reverse side; and it is not well to see only the evils without also considering the advantages. M. Bérillon says it would be puerile to deny the dangers from the evil use to be made of hypnotism, but they are not greater than those which would result from the use of poisonous drugs."

Physicians who made use of hypnotism as a therapeutic measure against certain neuroses make a use of it which is not blame-worthy. On the contrary when they make experiments in hypnotizing with the sole end of satisfying public curiosity, they commit a reprehensible act.

M. Drouineau referred to a number of accidents which had supervened in villages after professional mesmerists had gone through them, and concluded with the remark, "It is time to punish this immoral employment."

Rochefort considers that educating the public against the abuse of hypnotism will be the best means of preventing these untoward results.

##### Increase of Insanity in the United States.

Dr. Andrews, in a paper before the Washington Medical Congress, stated that the prevalence of insanity bears a close relationship to the duration of the social and governmental life of the people. Passing westward from the east coast of the United States there is an almost proportionate decrease of lunacy till the western slope is reached. In the New England States there is one insane person for every three hundred and fifty-nine inhabitants. In

the newer States this decreases to one in every one thousand two hundred and sixty-three inhabitants. In the seaboard Southern States there is one in every six hundred and ten inhabitants. (In Ontario, according to Dr. Daniel Clark, there is one to every six hundred and twenty inhabitants).

The increase of insanity amongst the negro race has been much more rapid than in any other portion of the population. Between 1870--80 the rate of increase in this class was more than 20% over the previous rate. The causes are given as freedom running into license, excessive use of stimulants, excessive emotional excitement, and the now necessary but to them unaccustomed struggle for existence. There has been but slight increase amongst the Chinese, owing to there being no great struggle for place and power.

In the treatment of the insane, oophorectomy, and castration in appropriate cases have able advocates amongst alienists, while electricity is now being used with a more intelligent knowledge of its power. Similarly massage has gained a position of prominence in treatment in many institutions. Hypnotism has become a means of investigating more closely the relationships between mind and body, with the result that expectant attention has become a valuable and legitimate help in the treatment of mental diseases.

#### BACTERIOLOGY.

##### Diphtheria Outbreaks by means of Milk Supplies.

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, England, has just been issued, and is a volume of 450 pages, replete with a large amount of practical and experimental work, carried on by the different officers of the Board. From amongst these we propose to indicate the principal points contained in the exhaustive report by Mr. W. H. Power on an *Outbreak of Diphtheria at York Town and Camberley*.

The disease, which had appeared here and there during several past years, became suddenly epidemic in October, 1886, in both of these places, in the same parish (their population being about 3,000). Between the 13th and 24th the Sanitary Inspector reported more than seventy cases, with thirteen deaths. Very early in the outbreak it was noticed that the houses invaded almost exclusively got their milk from one dairy farm. Later observation by