

opsonic index, the value of bacterial vaccines as a therapeutic measure in many conditions was fully recognized, though not especially discussed. Some measure of this action is needed, and if discovered will aid much in treatment. Work along the lines of the opsonic index should then be continued, but it seems to us that this should be more in the nature of laboratory investigation than as a clinical procedure. On the other hand, vaccine therapy along the lines already established should continue to be practised, and from it good results are to be expected in many patients.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

**Ichthyol as a Pain Dispeller.** By Johann Hirschcron. (*Deut. Aerzte-Zeitung*).

The author writes from his experience of 16 years of the value of ichthyol in relieving pain, and upon the widely varied usefulness of the remedy. Applied externally, it has proved an excellent treatment for all cases of rheumatism. In such cases a lukewarm 1 per cent. solution of ichthyol-glycerin is used to moisten a gauze dressing for the affected part of the body, and a hot-water bag is also applied if heat is desired. In the form of salve, ichthyol, with a small addition of menthol, acts with magical results; the foundation of the salve should be of equal parts of vaselin and wool-fat, six per cent. of ichthyol, and one per cent. of menthol being added. For patients who cannot bear heat, ichthyol is applied in a glycerin salve form, protected by a compress. Such an application is especially effective in cases of painful swelling, which it will often reduce over-night. It is also recommended in gonorrheal rheumatism for the swellings in the large and small joints.

Added to the bath, ichthyol gives good results in the treatment of neuralgia, particularly neuralgia of the back. To a full bathtub, add two ounces of ichthyol for instant relief from pain. The value of a salt-water bath is heightened by a previous use of ichthyol on the affected part.

In its original use as a remedy for every form of skin disease, the author claims that ichthyol still remains unrivalled.

Given internally, ichthyol is equally effective in allaying pain. In the form of pills, capsules, or diluted with water, it affords immediate relief in chronic catarrh of the stomach, does away with the pain attending the process of digestion, and relieves the painful accumulation of gases so common in stomach and intestinal troubles. Ichthyol is also a valuable remedy in cases of asthma, tuberculosis, hemorrhage, etc.

The writer concludes:

"It is well known that for several years past various sub-