

Since this editorial note was written we have read with much interest an interesting series of experiments reported to the *St. Louis Medical Review* of January 31, 1903, by Dr. Snodgrass and Dr. Elbrecht. These investigators, recognizing the importance of this subject, no sooner heard of the experiments which had been made in New York than they promptly undertook a series in St. Louis. Their methods of research seem to have been accurately and carefully carried out. Using rabbits for the purpose of inoculation with the streptococcus, they injected formalin solutions in a quantity proportionate to that employed in New York for the woman who suffered from puerperal septicemia. It is a noteworthy fact that cultures from the heart's blood of all the rabbits gave pure cultures of streptococci, even when injections of formalin were used. They state that from their results they do not feel justified in drawing conclusions which would recommend or condemn the formalin treatment of septicemia, and they also conclude that formalin is slow to act because it requires over an hour for a 1-to-500 solution to kill the organisms, whereas 1 to 1000 required over four hours, and therefore the direct action of formalin in its dilute solutions must be extremely mild. The formalin which they employed was evidently excellent, as it was tested by the Professor of Chemistry in the Washington University and found to be of a strength of 38.98 per cent. They also state that since their experiments they have heard of two cases in St. Louis in which this method of treatment was carried out. One of these received the injection, and although the temperature and pulse were reduced, the patient died. The other patient was stated at last reports to be improving. It is an interesting fact that as the days go by more and more articles expressing disapproval of this plan of treatment are appearing, and it is probable that in a short time nothing more will be heard of it. Barrow's recommendation as to the method of treatment is summed up in his own words as follows: "Inject into the median basilic vein 500 cubic centimeters of a 1-to-5000 of formalin solution in water at the temperature of 60° to 70° Fahrenheit"—a temperature far too low for intravenous injection.—*Ed. Therapeutic Gazette.*

### **Intestinal Obstruction Secondary to Pyo-Salpinx.**

Mr. Battle, St. Thomas's Hospital, operated on a married woman, *æt.* about 35, who had been admitted a week previously with symptoms of intestinal obstruction of some four or five days' duration. The symptoms were well marked: vomiting, abdominal pain, with peristalsis, constipation, and distension. The patient had refused to have anything done on admission, and it was only the continuance of pain, although some of her