

the paper had endeavoured to show that Dunham had been the originator of the serum reaction for typhoid, and that Widal had first popularised it, Dr. Adami thought that Dr. Johnston deserved still greater credit for having devised this simple test which was so generally applicable. It was evident that Widal was wrong in contending that the dried blood was not so good for examination as fluid blood. Without doubt this method would come into general employment in the health offices of cities throughout America and eventually in Europe.

Dr. H. A. LAFLEUR draw the attention of the Society to the great value of the test in differentiating the various febrile conditions grouped under the name of febricula. This term was mainly a cloak for our ignorance, and included among other things a certain number of cases of mild or abortive typhoid. If in any given case of so-called febricula the typhoid reaction of Widal was present, one should be on the watch for a possible relapse and should exercise caution in feeding

Dr. J. B. McCONNELL thought this an important method of detecting typhoid fever, not only in the earliest stages but in masked forms. Typhoid fever had so many anomalous forms, epidemics varied so much in their character, and difficulties in diagnosis were so frequent, that it certainly was to be regarded as a very great advance. In a few cases which he had sent to Dr. Johnston the diagnosis had been made at once. He had had a case recently in which he found it especially useful, it was a case of supposed malarial fever, but the symptoms also resembled those of typhoid. The patient had been in one of the city hospitals and had been discharged as being better, but he still felt ill and went around until at the end of three weeks he came to the Western Hospital. He had frequent chills and perfect intermissions of fever, some enlargement of the spleen with great depression, but no characteristic spots. An examination of the blood for plasmodia was negative except one slide which gave some evidence of the parasite, and this added to the difficulty of coming to a conclusion. The diazo reaction was present. A positive diagnosis was made by submitting a sample of the blood to Dr. Johnston. The man died, as most cases of ambulatory typhoid do, and the post mortem examination fully confirmed the serum diagnosis of typhoid fever.

Dr. F. G. FINLEY, speaking of the value of this method in cases of so-called febricula, cited a case which was brought into the hospital a few days previously with all the symptoms of typhoid, although they were not pronounced enough to enable him to come to a decision. He submitted a sample of the blood to Dr. Johnston who reported that it gave the reaction.