

books in the public libraries, but also, in addition, obtaining from private owners, lists available in private libraries, of writers in their possession not in the library catalogue. If carried out here this would, without any additional expense, greatly enhance our present facilities for literary research. An inter-library association is much needed.

Circular No. 4.

LABORATORY OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH,
OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
MONTREAL, October 1st, 1897.)

To the President of the Board of Health of the Province of Quebec :

SIR,

The simple technique recommended by this Laboratory for the serum diagnosis of Typhoid, by means of dried blood, has been found, after a year's trial, quite satisfactory for the practical work of diagnosis.

At the same time, (as was recently explained by a Committee of the American Medical Association, of which I was a member) although for routine diagnostic work even the very simplest methods may give good practical results, yet for recording scientific observations quantitative methods should be selected. This is especially necessary in reporting exceptional cases at variance with the general results of others, or where the observations are made the basis of generalisations.

I have found that good uniform quantitative results can be readily obtained with the dry blood method by taking in the first instance drops of uniform size, collected by means of a wire loop (I use 20 guage copper wire 2 mm. inside diameter), which is returned with the outfit, and used subsequently to obtain dilutions of known strength. The method has been described more fully in a joint paper by myself and Dr. Harold Thomas before the British Medical Association at Montreal, on Sept. 2nd, 1897.

For quantitative work, the blood is dried on an ordinary glass slide, or non-absorbent paper can be used if preferred. One of the outfits will be sent, when a quantitative estimation is desired, or to any who are practically interested in the matter. As already stated, I do not find quantitative work necessary for routine diagnosis, preferring to employ cultures having a sensitiveness so low as to give no reaction at all with non-typhoid blood.

In addition to the previous observations made by myself and Dr. D. D. McTaggart as to the use of attenuated cultures, I wish further