

STUDY OF KOCH'S TREATMENT IN BERLIN.*

BY GEO. T. ROSS, M.D.,

Professor of Physiology, Bishop's College, Montreal.

Gentlemen,—The subject of my report indicates that the work referred to was carried out in the chief centre where the lymph cure is being tested, but as the field in London is secondary only to Berlin in this respect, I will also venture to give a few facts concerning the work done in the English capital.

Speaking generally, I think it may be safely said that the evidence furnished us throughout Europe up to the present time regarding the Koch remedy ranges all the way between what is contradictory and conflicting to the point where the results are both brilliant and surprising. The exact result of a dose given in any case cannot be accurately foreseen, and one must be prepared for all kinds of vagaries while watching the phenomenon called reaction. Unsuspected general tubercular deposits or idiosyncrasy may develop a dangerous condition of collapse after a minimum dose of one or two milligrams, while a large dose may not at once manifest its effect; but even when cautiously proceeding a startling condition of things may develop. In my experience, however, these unpleasant surprises have not occurred with any frequency where the precaution was taken to permit normal temperature to be resumed before repeating the dose, a rule which Koch himself emphasizes. As you all know, the temperature after injection varies greatly, and it is important to remember that the curative process may proceed in spite of these variations and during them. I have seen good results following injections which in some cases caused hyperpyrexia and in other cases as much as two degrees subnormal temperature. Be it one extreme or the other, anything like accumulative effect is avoided by waiting until the normal point is again reached; yet throughout its administration there is no remedy in our hands to-day which we require to watch so closely in its action as this one, owing to our limited knowledge of its power. Its cardiac toxic effect is the consideration surmounting all others in im-

* Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.