

and in Canada. I refer to the use of purgatives and intestinal antiseptics. W. B. Thistle, of Toronto, who read a paper on this subject at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association in this city two years ago, is a strong advocate of this method of dealing with typhoid fever. He highly recommends calomel and salines. He appears to believe that the intestines are, by these measures, swept clear of bacilli, and the further production of toxins prevented. It is claimed for this method that the disease is aborted. Another so-called abortive method of treating typhoid is known as the Woodbridge method. It appears to be a favorite way of dealing with typhoid fever in the Southern and Western States, especially in the country districts. It consists in the administration of podophyllum, calomel, guaiacol, eucalyptol, and menthol, according to some definite formulæ. Many physicians have written claiming abortive power over the disease by this method, but all the reports that I have examined bear the evident stamp of inaccuracy in observation, and are, in consequence, of little or no value. To claim for any drug, either antiseptic or cathartic, that it is capable of destroying or removing all noxious micro-organisms from the gastro-intestinal tract, is simply absurd. As the typhoid bacilli are not present in the intestinal tract prior to the breaking down of the lymph tissues, it is impossible for antiseptics to reach them, except through the blood, and it is, of course, vain to expect that any medicinal agent that we know of can exert a germicidal action on the organism collected in the lymph tissues. Dr. Woodbridge proves too much. He claims, for instance, that in upwards of 8,000 cases of typhoid treated after his method, the average duration of the disease was only twelve and a-half days. Now, as the infiltrated tissue does not commonly break down before the end of the second week, it follows that his remedies have no exposed surface to work their antiseptic action on, hence the action must be through the tissues, a claim which is utterly unworthy of anyone possessing even an elementary knowledge of pathology.

The number of different antiseptics that have been used in typhoid is numerous. The old iodine and carbolic acid combination was for a long time a favorite; at present it is rarely heard of. Calomel, naphthalin, naphthol, iodoform, salol, salicylate of bismuth, boracic acid, chlorine, turpentine, have all been used at one time or another with the idea of producing a specific effect, but there is no evidence to show that any of them, or any combination of them, has any effect in lessening the duration, or to any appreciable degree modifying the severity of the disease.

Of all these agents, calomel is the one that has been the longest and probably the most favourably known. Many physicians believe that