

slept many hours. Salts were administered, which probably carried much of the drug out of the bowel. He had found this remedy good for tape-worm. Drs. Adams and Chambers discussed the case. Dr. Chambers thought so much thymol would be injurious to the kidneys.

Nomination of officers for the ensuing year then took place.

Dr. Hay gave notice of motion, that he would move that the yearly fee of

the Society be reduced to two dollars. Dr. Parsons gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that the meetings of the Society be held fortnightly instead of weekly.

Dr. W. J. Wilson gave notice that he would move: Resolved, that in the opinion of this Society no one should receive free treatment as an indoor patient in our public hospitals except those receiving hospital maintenance free. The Society then adjourned.

Special Selections.

THE OROONIAN LECTURES ON THE CHEMICAL PRODUCTS OF PATHOGENIC BACTERIA CONSIDERED WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENTERIC FEVER.*

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LECTURE I.

I propose in the following lecture to discuss generally the nature and action of the poisons and chemical products formed by pathogenic bacteria, and to illustrate the subject by an investigation that has occupied me recently of the pathogenic action and the chemical pathology of the typhoid bacillus and of two other bacilli closely related to it.

Most of the poisons which are to be considered are substances which cannot be defined chemically, and this at the outset is a very great difficulty in an attempt to classify such poisons accurately.

The transformations which bacteria, both non-pathogenic and pathogenic, produce in substances are of great variety. Some non-pathogenic bacteria are concerned, for example, with nitrification, a process in which

ammonia compounds are transformed into nitrates and nitrites. These bacteria are more or less specific, and although some pathogenic organisms have a somewhat similar action in this respect it is very slight. Another example of a similar character is the splitting up of urea into ammonia and carbonic acid by the micrococcus ureæ. These actions, however, are not of the nature of the chemical changes produced by pathogenic bacteria. The changes which bacteria produce in carbohydrate substances—for example, starches and sugars—are, first, the transformation of the starch into one or other kind of sugar, and the decomposition of the sugar into alcohol and acid bodies, such as lactic, acetic and butyric acids. Such changes are usually spoken of as those of fermentation, and are allied to

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