EDITORIAL

THE NEW TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

For some time, Dr. Friedreich Frantz Friedmann has been very much under the public eye. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Anyone who claims to have discovered a cure for tuberculosis, or even an agent that can materially benefit those afflicted with this disease, must be placed among the real benefactors of mankind. Tuberculosis causes the death of one-eighth of the human race, and about one-fourth of the deaths under 20 years of age is due to its ravages. Here, truly, is a great opportunity.

So far, Dr. Friedmann has retained as a secret the method by which he prepares his living bacilli. Some facts are known, however, to the effect that he cultures the organisms in the turtle's body and by this means secures a mild strain of bacilli. These are claimed to be non-toxic and to possess immunizing qualities.

It is too soon yet to pass any definite opinion upon this treatment. It may prove useful in only a few instances, or it may be helpful in a large percentage of the cases. Time alone can determine the true position of the treatment. Should it only prove beneficial in the incipient forms of the disease, it would still rank as a cure, as in time the advanced cases would disappear in the ordinary course of the disease.

In Berlin the medical profession is not a unit on the benefits of the treatment, but the larger number seem to favor it. In Canada, Dr. Friedmann was well received. He met with a sympathetic frame of mind in the medical profession of Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and London. This is as it ought to be. There is every reason to regard Dr. Friedmann as thoroughly honest. He is, indeed, a genuine enthusiast. Never rests for a moment if there is anything for him to do. He scarcely takes time for his meals. He is frank and appears to be working as a true scientist.

Some criticisms have been made to the effect that he is keping the method of preparation a secret; but we must not be too hasty in find-