

ing, we may remember that chemical bodies, composed of the same elements in the same proportions, are sometimes endowed with diverse qualities. Dr. Ogston has unquestionably shown that in cases of acute suppuration attended with fever, certain forms of micrococci are invariably present. A full statement was made of the minute and careful experiments of Dr. Ogston, of Aberdeen, respecting these organisms. He found that micrococci taken from an acute abscess and carefully transferred to the albumen of an ordinary fresh egg reproduced themselves in myriads. He also found that if the minutest portion of this albumen were injected under the skin of a healthy animal similar abscesses resulted, abounding with micrococci. Repeated experiments, under the most careful conditions, produced the same results.

Ogston's experiments prepare us to receive the recent teaching regarding the cause of tubercular disease.

This disease brings with it conditions favorable to the growth of bacteria, for parasitic growths are known to flourish in weak organisms. The breaking up of tissues incident to this disease also furnishes most fertile soil for the growth of bacteria. It may be true, as affirmed, that the bacillus is invariably present in cases of tubercle. This the above considerations would lead us to expect, without looking to it as the sole cause of the disease.

Many questions respecting these minute organisms and their influence in life and disease are still to be settled, but their study has unquestionably led to much improvement in the practice of the healing art.

It is satisfactory to believe that these recent studies have confirmed old truths. As regards contagious and tubercular diseases. Our efforts to combat them must to a very great extent depend upon our success in teaching the public to rely less upon antidotes and more upon those means which tend to build up strong bodies capable of resisting the agencies causing disease. Our main hope of lessening the mortality from these diseases lies in carrying out by the public proper sanitary measures; and—

“By temperance taught,

In what thou eat'st or drink'st, seeking from thence

Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,

Till many years over thy head return,

So may'st thou live till, like ripe fruit thou drop

Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease

Gathered, not harshly plucked.”

THE BIRTH-PLACES OF YELLOW FEVER, AND ITS SO-CALLED PROPAGATION, BY INOCULATION.

(Continuation of Translation).

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Under the title of *The Birthplaces of Yellow Fever*, an article, translated by the writer from *La Estrella du Panama*, appeared in the early issue of the MEDICAL RECORD. It, as well as the article now appended, appeared in the *Jamaica Gazette* (official), under the date of July 12th and 26th, it having been forwarded to the Government of the latter Island by the Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The readers of the RECORD will observe that the translation, made from the Portuguese, for the Colonial Office, is literal, and by a layman, which accounts for many errors. As the subject is sure to lead to a great deal of medical discussion by those skilled in the treatment of this dreaded disease, it is given word for word as copied for the *Official Gazette*:

TRANSMISSION BY CONTAGION.

“On the 14th we took from the heart of a person who had died of yellow fever an hour before some grammes of blood in which the microscope revealed the presence of the cryptococci that are now currently considered to constitute the characteristic of that disease. Those organisms were in different phases of full development from the size of small black points to that of large round cells, grayish or dark, fringed with a brilliant point in the centre. Besides these were to be seen masses of transparent granulations set in a gangue of yellow pigment.

“We took one gramme of the blood, and, with every care that the case required, our able assistant, Senor Menezes Doria made an intravenous injection in the great vein of a limb of a rabbit. Fifteen minutes later tetaniform convulsions showed themselves with back-hollowing, (opisthotonos?—W. N.), and the animal soon succumbed, fulminated, so to say, by the violence of its virus so rapidly and directly intro-