

My experience of the diazo-reaction in phthisis is not large, but I have had the opportunity of applying the test in very advanced cases of the disease. My results do not in any way agree with those which would mark the diazo-reaction either as of usual occurrence in the later phases of the malady or, when it does occur, as being of any special significance. In ordinary cases of this description the result was negative, and when the reaction was positive there was no reason whatever to suppose that the case offered any special feature of gravity beyond that which is usual at the stage at which the affection has arrived.

It is worthy of note, too, in this connection, that the case referred to above of acute tuberculosis, which was at first thought to be one of enteric fever, although showing a well-marked positive reaction, yet some months later was in no worse condition, the disease not having made rapid progress.

My experience, then, of *the diazo-reaction* is that from a strictly practical point of view it is of *very little value*. When the result is positive in enteric fever the malady is so far advanced that there can be no possibility of error as regards the diagnosis. In the very early stage, when alone there may be some little difficulty in determining the nature of the malady, the test usually gives negative results, and even if this is not the case the positive reaction by no means excludes the possibility of the case being one of tuberculosis.

In my judgment, far too much importance is at the present time attached to laboratory tests in clinical medicine. A reversion to the old-fashioned but sound, though laborious, manner of acquiring a knowledge of the symptoms and physical signs of disease is greatly to be wished, for it is by the cultivation of the senses at the bedside and in the dead-house, and in this way only, that a real and satisfactory knowledge of medicine can be obtained.—*Post-Graduate*.—BY DR. SYERS (*Brit. Med. Journ.* May 24, 1902.)

A SPECIFIC TEST FOR HUMAN BLOOD.

For many years it has been the dream of medico-legal students that some day human blood could be positively identified. It was not hoped that severe temperatures, age or contamination would be overcome; even the absolute identification of the fresh specimen seemed impossible. Now, the wildest hopes are realized; not only may human blood be identified beyond fear of contradiction, but age, tem-