

Continental workers report very favorably on this test, and in this country interest is rapidly growing concerning this very simple diagnostic procedure.

Chantemesse has recently applied this principle to typhoid fever, and, although his work has not been substantiated, his results are very encouraging. The typhotoxines are obtained by cultivating the *Bacillus typhosus* in bouillon of beef spleen, the medium being contained in large flasks which allow of the exposure of a considerable surface to the air. After incubating for a number of days, these cultures are filtered, sterilized, and treated with absolute alcohol. The precipitated toxine is then dried and dissolved in normal saline solution in a strength of 1 per cent. This is used just like the tuberculin preparation in the ophthalmic test, and the resulting reaction is very similar. It seems not unlikely that this test may be serviceable in an earlier stage of the disease than the agglutination test. The possibility of the further extension of this new test to other infectious diseases is evident.—*New York Medical Journal*.

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**The Ablation of the Tonsils.**—Until the function of the tonsils has been definitely settled there are likely to be differences of opinion in regard to the treatment of the various pathological conditions to which they are subject. Some authorities regard them as the portals of entry of many different forms of infection; others look on them as valuable protective agencies, while still others consider them as not of very great importance in either direction. It seems not unlikely, however, that both of the first two of these views are correct, for it is perfectly conceivable that like most collections of lymphatic tissue the tonsils have a protective function, while at the same time if the toxic process becomes too severe they may be overwhelmed and themselves be converted into foci of infection. The question of whether or not the hypertrophied tonsils so frequently seen should be removed resolves itself largely into a consideration of their condition. If the hypertrophy is a simple one and the tonsillar tissue itself appears healthy the assumption is physiological process intended to compensate for increased functional demands, but if the hypertrophy gives rise to local disturbances or there is infection of the tissues themselves surgical treatment is indicated. Barth (*Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift*, December 5, 1907) is convinced that it is only the diseased tonsil that affords a means of entry for systemic infections while a single hypertrophy does not necessarily demand treatment. He also points out that in removing the pharyngeal tonsil the submucosa