

detritus is left, therefore, which must greatly irritate the typhoid ulcers if allowed to pass over them. From observations that Lehlbach has made among numerous typhoid stools and at autopsies on several cases, he is convinced that very little of the casein of the milk is really digested, and the other constituents—the milk serum, with its salts, its sugar, and its cream—“form the essential elements of nutritive value in these conditions.” He believes, therefore, that milk is not a perfect food in these cases, and its use should be restricted. He advises the addition of carbo-hydrates to the dietary, such as boiled rice, either with or without milk. “The food thus converted into caloric saves so much of the living tissue from being burnt up.” The dryness of the mouth and tongue, so often present in this disease, is less apt to annoy the patient under such a diet than with milk alone. In addition, he advises giving a small amount of one of the malt extracts to promote assimilation. His results have been very satisfactory. —*International Medical Magazine*.

THE OFFICIAL INFLUENZA INQUIRY.—We are able to state that the President of the Local Government Board, after consultation with his official medical advisers, has decided, in lieu of obtaining a Royal Commission, to institute a special inquiry—under the direction of the Medical Department of the Board, and, with the aid of its officers and of outside scientific experts, such as Dr. Klein, whose assistance will be summoned—into the clinical characters (symptomatology, causation, mode of diffusion, complications, etc.) and the pathological nature of influenza. The inquiry will proceed on the lines indicated in the last paragraph of Dr. Buchanan's comment on the report of Dr. Parsons, May, 1891, and will include the study of the natural history of the disease, and of more authentic methods of identifying influenza proper from among the various *grippes*, catarrhs, colds, and the like, among men and animals. This may lead to earlier identification of first cases. It will be an object also to acquire better insight into the characters, habits, and conditions of multiplication of the material of influenza, with a view to acquiring by other methods further and better safeguards against the disease. It is felt that our prospects of dealing with in-

fluenza epidemics by isolation and disinfection are not particularly encouraging, and it is hoped we may get suggestions of other methods available for repressing the disease. —*British Medical Journal*.

THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF THE ENLARGED PROSTATE.—(1) Prostatectomy is justifiable, and does what nothing else can. (2) The perineal operation is somewhat less severe, but decidedly less reliable than the suprapubic; it should rarely be preferred, unless there be urethral complications. In very feeble men it may still be elected. (3) The operation is not justifiable, with present statistics, if the patient can be comfortable in catheter life. (4) No physical condition of the parts or of the patient short of a practically moribund state contra-indicates operation. By it in desperate cases life is often actually saved, although the operation is a grave one, and its mortality high. (5) With the rongeur—better than any instrument—the bladder outlet can be lowered, and polypoid or interstitial growths jutting into the prostatic sinus can be removed, and these points are more essential to a successful operation than is the taking away of a large portion of the prostatic bulk. The instrument next in value is the curved scissors, but the skilled finger is most important of all. Most of the work has to be done by the aid of touch, as the bleeding soon becomes free and renders visual inspection impossible. (6) Diuretin, perhaps, is of value when the kidneys are damaged. It certainly does no harm. (7) Chloroform alone should be used as an anæsthetic, for the sake of the kidneys. —*Keyes in Med. Rec.*

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME “GRIPPE.”—In a meteorological journal kept in Versailles, in 1743, it is stated that during the months of February and March there were many cases of nasal and bronchial catarrh, and that “the king (Louis XV.) named this disease *la grippe*.” In the same journal it is remarked that bleeding was not useful, but that those who had not been bled and who drank a great deal recovered much the most rapidly from the attack. —*N. Y. Medical Record*.