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Original Communications.

THE SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF TYPHOID.*

By J. J. MACKENZIE, B.A.,

Bacteriologist to the Provincial Board of Health.

THE recent practical application of the specific serum reaction of Pfeiffer in the diagnosis of typhoid fever is one of the most interesting results of recent bacteriological work.

In his researches upon Asiatic cholera, Pfeiffer, of Berlin, discovered that the serum of an animal rendered immune to cholera would, when introduced into the peritoneal cavity of a guinea-pig, along with a virulent culture of the cholera spirillum, cause the dissolution and disappearance of the spirilla in a remarkably short space of time. If the immune serum was not introduced, the spirilla multiplied, and the animal died.

This reaction, which was spoken of as Pfeiffer's phenomenon, was used for the identification of suspected spirilla. In many cases all other bacteriological methods left us still in doubt whether a given spirillum was that of Asiatic cholera or not. This test proved absolutely reliable.

*Read at the Pathological Society, November 29, 1896.