

PERTINENT.—Mr. John Wood, of London, asks: 1. How, if bacteria are so very terrible, nine hundred and ninety-nine cases of wounds out of a thousand do well; 2. How a patient can die by pyemia or septicemia, self-poisoned, without external wound at all, the source of infection being a deep-seated abscess far removed from contact with the air; 3. How bacteria can exist in abscesses originating inwardly, and yet no blood-poisoning ensue; 4. How wounds of the face-cavities heal so quickly and so well, though bacteria in numbers were found in the fur on the tongue and the mucus on the surfaces of these cavities.

OLEO-MARGARINE.—From an average of 100,000 pounds of fresh caul fat received daily, from 40,000 to 50,000 pounds of butter are produced—equivalent to the yield of nearly as many thousand milch cows. From 20 to 25 pounds of beef oil suitable for butter-making is obtainable from each of the 12,000 bees killed every week for the requirements of New York and the adjoining cities, an annual addition to the food supply of this port of not less than 12,000,000 pounds of pure food, having a dietetic as well as a commercial value of from 15 to 20 cents a pound. The possible annual gain to the whole country from Mr. Mège's discovery runs high among the millions.—*Scientific American*.

VIVISECTION IN GERMANY.—Richard Wagner, the musician, has written an open letter against vivisection. He tells physiologists to "look into the eyes" of the animals they torture, and he is sure they will drop their instruments.

Professor Zollner, of Leipsic, has expressed his belief that vivisectionists are to a large extent responsible for "Nihilism in religion and morality;" and he counsels them, instead of continuing their evil practices, to study "animal magnetism." Notwithstanding these authoritative utterances, the German public are not, apparently, inclined to call for the kind of legislation which has been adopted in England. At a meeting held in Leipsic last month, Herr von Weber denounced the medical profession as guilty of great cruelty. In these days, he declared, doctors regarded their patients rather as "materials for experiments" than as persons to be helped, so that hospitals had been virtually transformed into laboratories. The only effect, however, of the orator's indignant eloquence was that three cheers were almost unanimously given for a distinguished physician against whom he directed his most violent attacks.