

Though by far the greatest degree of success has been in the treatment of diphtheria by this method, yet much work has been done, and an encouraging degree of success attained, in experiments in cholera, hydrophobia, tetanus, snake-bite, and tuberculosis. We all remember the bitter wail of disappointment and despair which swept over the whole civilized earth when the failure of Koch's tuberculin had to be proclaimed. Yet who can say that Koch's work was in vain? On the contrary, it gave such an impetus to research and enquiry in the direction in which he was working that the present discovery of antitoxine, if not a result, was at all events a sequence in the direct line of descent.

ANTI-STREPTOCOCCUS SERUM.

From a surgical point of view much interest attaches to the introduction of a serum for the cure of those severe forms of blood-poisoning so frequently met with in practice. Blood-poisoning, or septicæmia, is due to a germ known as the streptococcus. By a process similar to that used in the production of the antitoxine of diphtheria, an anti-streptococcus serum has been obtained which gives promise of being of great use in those acute and rapidly fatal cases which sometimes follow infection from a post-mortem wound or from a virulent surgical case. On the last day of February of the present year this university and this college were called upon to bear the loss of an esteemed professor, in the person of Dr. Laughlin Macfarlane, who died after one week's illness. This was an example of the most malignant type of septicæmia, due to the streptococcus, and following upon a trifling prick of a needle while amputating a gangrenous limb. The onset was sudden and characteristic, and its appalling seriousness was at once recognized by his *fidus Achates*, Dr. Adam Wright, whom he consulted. No need to say that not an hour—not a moment—was lost in instituting the line of treatment which gave the only promise of success. But words are feeble to describe the dreary hopelessness felt by those of us whose sad privilege it was to wait upon our friend in his last days. The pathology of the case was only too clear; but our therapeutic resources were at fault, and we could only fold our hands in bitter helplessness and watch him sink slowly to his end. Such is the intensely personal character of the allusion to this case that I must be allowed to digress for a moment from the main subject in hand. This is the first public meeting of the college faculty and students since the death of Prof. Macfarlane, and it is fitting that we should pause for a moment to think of our loss. Professor Macfarlane was a man singularly dear to the successive generations of students with whom he came in contact. This was evidenced not only by the cordial good-fellowship that always existed between him and his class, but also by the fact that after graduation his old students returned