

meat. Upon an exclusive diet of horse meat, with a free allowance of water, the birds in from three to five months developed repeated attacks of swelling of the joints, with symptoms of pain, and finally the formation of localized concretions. There was a marked craving for lime, which greatly increased the amount of excrement and changed its reaction from acid to alkaline. There was also a decided diminution of the uric acid elimination produced by the lime. It is suggested that the lime combines with the nitrogenous compounds and prevents the formation of urea and urates.—*International Medical Magazine*.

PEDIATRICS.

IN CHARGE OF ALLEN BAINES, W. J. GREIG, AND W. B. THISTLE.

Antitoxin (in favor of).

Although the majority of physicians the world over agree that antitoxin is the best treatment for diphtheria, there are still some who claim that the mortality from the disease is, at least, as great as ever, and many who believe that the injection of antitoxin lessens the patient's chances of recovery. These objections are not all in the rank and file of our profession by any means; some are, or are claimed to be, authorities, Monte of Vienna, Epstein of Gottingen. In spite of this reports are still appearing giving statistics favoring antitoxin. One, that of Marsden, in the *British Medical Journal*, is remarkable, both for the large percentage of recoveries and the number of cases in which the disease was complicated by the presence of scarlet fever. In his series of 105 cases one died.

In substance, he says: "It is wasting time to bring forward facts simply to prove the value of antitoxin. Those who have treated the disease by the old and new methods need nothing to prove the inestimable value of the latter. Its detractors are few and must necessarily be inexperienced in its use." However, a good story will bear repeating, and here he gives his series of cases. The serum was always used on the clinical diagnosis. Diphtheria was always suspected in cases where there was sore throat and fever, and in which the fever declined and the throat symptoms remained the same or became worse. Improvement was noted in all cases, even in those in which the diagnosis was not confirmed by microscope. Even negative reports as to presence of K. L. bacillus was not always proof that the disease was not diphtheria, as in some it appeared later. He always gives serum on clinical diagnosis, as it never does any harm, and at first even in the true form