

ascertaining the exact source and commencement of any given epidemic. It is necessary that the practising physician also should be, to a certain extent, versed in some of the methods, more especially in those of staining and examining bacteria, as, for example, the bacillus of tubercle, in order to enable him to make or confirm his diagnosis. In surgical work, again, more especially in the treatment of wounds, a practical acquaintance with the subject is almost essential. Whatever antiseptic substance be employed, or whatever method of treatment be adopted, the principles enunciated years ago by Sir Joseph Lister must be rigidly adhered to: micro-organisms must be completely excluded from wounds or their active development must be prevented. To do this intelligently, the surgeon must know what are the chief facts with regard to bacteria; while to carry out wound treatment comfortably and successfully, a practical knowledge of the methods employed in laboratory researches is almost essential. The importance of these studies will doubtless become more fully recognized as time goes on, and facilities for their study by students will be provided in every good teaching school, as is, indeed, being already rapidly done in the leading universities in Germany.

Ulcerative Endocarditis.—In an elaborate study of ulcerative endocarditis, in the July number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, Dr. Byrom Bramwell records fourteen cases in all of which the aortic valve was affected, either alone or in combination, the mitral in six, and the tricuspid in one. In two of the three cases in which well-marked acute croupous pneumonia was present, he detected micrococci in the exudation filling the air-cells of the lung, but he failed to satisfy himself that they were identical with the micrococci in the cardiac vegetations. The frequent association of acute croupous pneumonia with ulcerative endocarditis is a point of great interest, but Dr. Bramwell's observations on this point have not been sufficiently extensive to enable him to form a satisfactory judgment; but his pathological experience clearly shows that during certain seasons acute croupous pneumonia and ulcerative endocarditis are apt to prevail. The detection of micrococci in the