

DIPHTHERIA caused nearly 50 per cent. more deaths in the Dominion last year than in the previous year. Who will contend that we need not multiply means for educating the people, removing the causes and preventing the spread of disease?

ON KOCH'S TREATMENT the British Medical Journal supplement of the 3rd inst. reports thus: On December 21st, Prof. Cornil brought a series of lectures on Koch's treatment at the Hospital Laennec to a close. He summed up the results which he had so far obtained by the new method. . . . In tuberculosis of the larynx "beneficial results may perhaps be obtained," but extreme caution is required so that local swelling may not endanger the patient's life.

IN PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS, we must now, in M. Cornil's opinion, "abandon the greater part of the hopes which were at first entertained." Here he thinks the indications for the treatment are extremely limited; "in the majority of cases it may be very dangerous." It is useless to think of employing it in acute, galloping phthisis. In advanced phthisis, where there are large cavities in the lungs, the injections, so far from being useful, are positively hurtful. Even in incipient phthisis M. Cornil is very doubtful as to their effect. . . . In some cases the injections caused attacks of hæmoptysis; in others abundant pleuritic effusion. In certain cases of chronic phthisis, in which the disease is quiescent, or nearly so, the treatment would, M. Cornil thinks, be not unlikely to kindle it into fresh activity.

PROF. SENATOR delivered a clinical lecture on Koch's treatment based on fifty-three cases under his own observation (*Berlin, klin. Woch.*, Dec. 10th). The cases represented a total number of 400 injections made over a period of three weeks. He thinks the treatment indicated in all cases in which it seems likely that the tissues killed by the injections will be eliminated easily;—lupus, and tuberculosis of the larynx, nose, mouth, and intestine. With regard to the lung, "good results can be expected only when the affection is recent in origin and slight in character."

PROF. VIRCHOW delivered a lecture before the Berlin Medical Society, giving the results of 21 post mortem examinations made on the bodies of patients who had died after having been treated with the Koch lymph. Prof. Virchow declared that the injection increases the bacilli in the body and causes them to migrate to portions of it previously unaffected, thus virtually generating a new infection.

AN "INSTRUCTIVE STORY" relating to an epidemic of diphtheria from the milk supply, at

Surbiton, Eng., is given in the British Medical Journal of the 3rd inst. There was a "notification" under the Act of the first few cases and the milk being suspected the vendor was notified and the supply stopped; still in all 22 houses were invaded, giving 27 cases and 3 deaths. All the houses were supplied with the same milk. Inquiries instituted at the source of supply, in the country, revealed that there had been a succession of cases for some weeks past, that the schools were closed for three weeks, and that three inmates of the farmer's house had been attacked with the disease. If prompt notification had not been given of the early cases many more cases would doubtless have occurred.

THE PROPOSALS which were made by Mr. Ernest Hart at the Liverpool meeting of the British Medical Association, for the education, examination, and registration of plumbers, has had a far-reaching and practical effect. There are now a number of centres of education and examination of plumbers throughout Great Britain, and at the quarterly meeting of the Court of the Company of Plumbers, on the last of December, Sir Philip Magnus brought forward a report showing that 1,550 apprentices and journeymen plumbers are now attending plumbing classes in London and the provinces, and that at seven examinations held in the last session, the average number of passes was 44 per cent. of the total number of candidates. It is thought Mr. Hart's scheme will soon be completed, by an Act of Parliament for the protection of the title of registered plumbers.

THE THIRD REPORT of the Royal Commission on Vaccination has just been issued and contains minutes of the evidence taken during the twenty-one sittings held between February 19th and August 7th last. Most of that evidence was given by opponents of vaccination, the most important contributions being from Mr. Wallace, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Tebb. The British Medical Journal says: "We do not feel that the weighty arguments in favor of vaccination have been shaken by the evidence" contained in the report.

AT THE Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland recently, Dr. MacWeeny read an exhaustive paper on the typhoid organisms and exhibited pure cultures on gelatine and agar-agar, from the spleen and enlarged mesenteric glands of a patient who had succumbed at an early stage of the fever in the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital, Dublin. As to the infectiousness of typhoid, there was no doubt that its organism was capable of living outside the human body, and that infection thence took place, and not from one