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DISCUSSION ON TYPHOID FEVER.

THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.*

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As yet we are not able to speak of a specific treatment of typhoid. We are unable to destroy or counteract the typhoid bacilli, or prevent or even limit the effect of their toxins in the human subject. The results obtained by immunizing and curative inoculations in hydrophobia, tetanus, and diphtheria, have naturally led to a search for similar antitoxic principles in typhoid. Hammerschlag and v. Jaksch have reported a number of cases treated by serum taken from convalescent typhoid patients. Beuner, Peiper, Klemperer, and Levy have obtained a serum by treating dogs with gradually increasing doses of bouillon cultures of typhoid bacilli, which was found sufficient to immunize susceptible animals, such as mice and guinea-pigs. With these measures they were also able to effect a cure some time after infection had been induced. They tried the serum in a few cases of typhoid in the human subject, but with no definite result, except perhaps, to show that it could be used without inducing any unpleasant or dangerous symptoms. Other interesting work of this character has been carried out with the serum of convalescents and immunized animals, but the result, although apparently effective in the disease as it is met with in susceptible animals, still has been disappointing when applied to counteract the disease in the human subject.

In this connection I will refer to a form of treatment which is very old, but has lately been revived by a few physicians in the United States

* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, January 23, 1899.