

Renal inflammation as a result of antitoxin treatment has not been established.

2. *The effect of antitoxin in producing complications peculiar to those cases treated without it.*—There were 4946 cases treated by injection, and of this number 3,542, or 71.6 per cent. suffered from one or more complications, while the balance, 1404, escaped.

The complications noted are : Rash, joint pains, pyrexia, with or without rash or joint pains, abscess at the seat of injection and, more rarely, albuminuria, rigors, vomiting and coma.

Dr. Michael's, in his tabulated statement of these complications, show that a considerable decrease is observed in 1896 as compared with 1895, and accounts for this by the difference in the bulk of the serum ; its antitoxic effects being the same each year, the complications, therefore, are ascribed not to the antitoxin itself, nor to any substance concerned in its elaboration, but to the vehicle in which it is administered—viz., horse serum. He illustrates the statement by cases.

Under the rarer complications Dr. Michael's remarks upon albuminuria, that it appears to be indisputably connected with the use of antitoxin. Coma was observed in but one instance, lasting for forty-eight hours, and was completely recovered from.

It will be seen from these cases that complications directly referable to the use of antitoxin are both transient and insignificant.

W. F. Hamilton.

The Treatment of Diphtheria.

H. KOSSEL. "Zur Diphtheriestatistik."—*Deutsch. Med. Woch.*, April 14, 1898.

Kossel, assistant in the institute for infectious diseases in Berlin gives the result of the treatment of diphtheria in that institution for the past few years.

The results of the antoxine treatment have been so universally favourable in the practice of those who have had an extensive experience with it that it would appear almost unnecessary to further add testimony to its usefulness, were it not that now and then one sees contributions from the pens of medical men with the object of endeavouring to lessen the confidence of the profession in its efficacy. We are not aware of any physician who has had much practical experience with the serum treatment of diphtheria, writing in any other strain but a favourable. Its opponents appear to be solely those who write without experience.