years. Both formulæ contain chlorate and iodode of potassium mixed in solution. The latter and much the shorter of the two prescriptions stands thus:— \mathbf{R} —"Potassii iodidi, 3j. Potassii chlorati, 3 j. Aquæ destil, $\mathbf{3}$ vi.—M. Sig.—Shake well and give a tablespoonful every quarter of an hour, or half-hour until relief is attained."

This dose appears to be for young children any thing over "six or eight months."

Now the United States Dispensatory for 1883, states that "M. Melsens has ascertained by experiments upon dogs that if iodide and chlorate of potassium are given together, so as to be in the system at the same time, they act as a poison, and may cause death in a few days. 108 grains of a mixture of iodide of potassium in equi-valent proportions, given daily to a dog of medium size, often proved fatal as early as the fifth day. He ascribed this result to the production of iodate of potassium, which he has shown to be a poisonous salt." This very important fact must render the above discovery somewhat risky.

Dartmouth, June, 1889.

М. А. В. Ѕмітн.

OUR NEW YORK REPORT.

From . ur own Correspondent NEW YORK, June 20th.

MEETING OF THE NEW YORK ACA-DEMY OF MEDICINE, MAY 1st.

The subject of pulmonary phthisis and its relationship to the tubercle bacillus was thoroughly discussed. It is to be regretted that nothing new was advanced, but it may be of interest to your readers to show the stand taken by the profession here, and what now seems to be the final settling of this much debated question.

The first paper, "The relationship of the tubercle bacillus to the etiology of pulmonary phthisis," was read by W. R. James, M.D.

He began by stating that the primary meaning of tubercle was confined to a nodular mass; subsequently these were classified, but even this classification is now obsolete. In 1865, Vellemin proved by experiment that tuberculosis was infectious, by inoculating animals with tuberculous material. In 1882, Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus and advanced the view that all tubercles were due to the tubercle bacillus. The subsequent

seven years have confirmed his views, so that now it is regarded as essential that the tubercle bacillus must be present in every tuberculous nodule. Phthisis is nothing more or less than pulmonary tuberculosis, and he thinks that all phthisis is due to tubercle bacillus. Dr. James' views might be summed up by stating that the only cause of pulmonary phthisis is the tubercle bacillus or its spores.

Discussion.—Dr. Tyson, of Philadelphia, firmly believed in the tubercular theory. His reasons for so doing were founded on the well known methods of proving in bacteriology; they might be briefly related as follows:

(1) The organism must be found in the blood and tissues; (2) it must be capable of being removed in absolute purity; (3) it must be introduced into the animal in a state of purity and give rise to the disease; (4) it must be found in the animal diseased.

All these conditions had been fulfilled by the tubercle bacillus so that it must be considered that it is contagious ; but in reality it is only slightly so, for the reason that the sputum has to be inspissated and inhaled into the lungs before it can He then gave some account give rise to phthisis. of the communicability of tuberculosis by the alimentary canal. The first cases were reported by Gerlach, of children contracting tuberculosis of the canal and mesentery glands, by drinking tuber-Canil, in 1888, introduced cultures culous milk. of the tubercle bacillus into the alimentary canal, and in four days found them in the mesenteric glands. Mater, relates the case of a patient who swallowed his tubercular sputum and in ten days had diarrhœa from a tuberculous ulcer of his in-Another incident is related where chicktestine. ens swallowed their master's tubercular sputum as he expectorated in the yard, and after death they were all found to have tuberculosis of the liver. He concluded by stating that the tenacity of the life of the bacillus was from thirty days to six months.

Dr. H. N. Biggs stated that the experiments are conclusive, the only direct factor in the etiology of phthisis is the tubercle bacillus, all other factors, such as hereditary tendency, exposure, unhealthy surroundings, etc., only act by reducing the resistance of the tissue to such a state that a slight dose of the bacillus will give rise to tuberculosis. He believes, 1st. That phthisis is con-