

THE DIPHTHERIA ANTOKIN.

The marked attention now given to the treatment of diphtheria by means of the diphtheria antoxin will soon make clear to what extent it is useful. From all sides reports are coming which on the whole are favourable. The latest which we have access to is published in *Le Progrès Médical* for the 22nd of December last. It is on account of the cases of diphtheria treated in the Children's and Trousseau hospitals of Paris. The serum therapeutics was begun in the former institution on the 1st of February last and in the latter on the 13th of September. In all 1,027 cases were admitted, of whom 203 died, a mortality of 19.76 per cent. In the same institutions during the seven previous years the mortality ranged between 50.14 per cent. (1892) and 64.66 per cent. (1888) the average for the seven years being slightly above 57 per cent. The mortality under the older methods is almost exactly three times greater than under the new in the two great hospitals for children in Paris. It should be noted that the number of cases of diphtheria admitted to the above hospitals during the months of October and November, and treated by diphtheria antoxine was somewhat greater than the number in any of the corresponding months of the previous seven years, as the following table shows :

Average of 7 yrs (1887 to 1893 incl.)			
	October. Old Treat.	November. Old Treat.	
Number admitted.....	122	146	
Number died.....	71	74	
	October, 1894. New Treat.	November, 1894. New Treat.	
Number admitted.....	228	192	
Number died.....	30	35	

We have also indicated the corresponding number of deaths in the two periods.

It is clear, we believe, that even making a due allowance for the increased number of presumably lighter cases treated in October and November, 1894, that the treatment by the new method was found to be of decidedly greater value than the old.