

cases, diphtheria would disappear entirely from the United States in ten years.

As it is, the days of the disease are numbered. Opposition to the use of antitoxin lingers among the ignorant and transcendental, and even among certain "old-school" physicians, but every now and then the public is made acquainted with the sad fate of some faith curist's child, who, denied the aid of one of medicine's triumphs, dies in lingering agony. A paragraph of that sort, floating through the newspapers, makes people think, and when people begin to think they are very apt to be impressed by figures.

Two other maladies that have seen their best day are cerebrospinal meningitis and tetanus (lockjaw). The former seems to be a native of America, for it was unknown to physicians until first noted in this country in 1805. Since then it has spread to Europe, and under the name of spotted fever and other cognomens is widely epidemic. In our own country it has been as common, at times, as typhoid. Often it is mild, but sometimes, during a bad epidemic, the death rate has reached ninety per cent. But this last will never be recorded again. The general death rate has been reduced from eighty per cent. to sixteen per cent. by an American, Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research.

Dr. Flexner's specific is an antiserum much like that for diphtheria. It is prepared by accustoming a horse, which has a high natural power of resistance to meningitis, to increasing doses of the germs and their toxins. In the end the horse's blood acquires such a power of resisting the germs that they no longer inconvenience the animal. Then some of this horse blood is drawn off and injected into the veins of a human patient. Here it continues its war on the germs and their toxins, and in about five cases out of six routs and neutralizes them.

The meningitis antiserum is still in its early stages, and so it is not nearly so certain in its effects as the antitoxin for diphtheria. But experience will improve it, and in a few years meningitis will pass into the limbo of terrors that were, but are not.

The lockjaw antitoxin is brother to that of diphtheria and a cousin to that of meningitis. It neutralizes and makes harmless the virulent poisons secreted by the lockjaw germs. As everyone knows, lockjaw is an exceedingly dangerous disease. It is caused by a bacillus discovered by Nicolaier in 1885 and is a common sequel to small injuries, particularly the ragged, contused cuts, bruises and burns caused by fireworks, nails, and farm implements. The bacillus lurks in street dirt and so reaches the hands. So long as the