

may be yielded by the serum of a patient who has not had syphilis, but is suffering from such diseases as scarlet fever, leprosy, pellagra, yaws, and a few others. Drs. C. Verdozzi and L. Urbani extend this list by the inclusion of certain chronic disorders of the liver. After giving a full account of their technique, which is precisely that described by Wassermann himself, they give a tabular and also a detailed account of 26 patients with chronic hepatic affections in whom no history or signs of syphilitic infection could be obtained. An account is also given of 27 control cases, patients with either some acute disease of the liver or bile ducts, or with acute or chronic disease of some other organ, but free from any suspicion of syphilis. Not one of the 27 controls gave a positive Wassermann reaction. But a positive reaction was obtained in no fewer than 20 of the 26 patients with chronic hepatic disease. Nine of the 26 were suffering from primary or secondary new growths of the liver, and 8 of these gave a positive reaction; in 7 the reaction was complete. The remaining 17 had one or another form of cirrhosis of the liver, and Wassermann's reaction gave a positive result in 9 of these, while in 3 more there was fixation of the complement even in the absence of antigen. The authors remark that Boas failed to find a single positive reaction in 59 cachectic patients with malignant disease; possibly, they suppose, because the liver was little involved in these cases. The authors state that jaundice is not in itself a cause of a positive Wassermann reaction; jaundice was present in 13 of their 26 patients, and 6 of the 13 gave a negative reaction, as was also the case with all the 6 patients in the control series who were jaundiced. They note that the reaction was more often incomplete in hepatic cirrhosis than in the cases of hepatic neoplasm."

The foregoing is ample to make us careful not to place too much weight to the finding of a positive Wassermann. There are many things in Heaven and earth not yet dreamed of in our philosophy."

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### THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

Liberty has ever come high. It is the most precious thing man knows; and it is the thing for which he has ever been ready to die. In the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913 350,000 were killed, out of a total of 1,250,000 engaged on the side of the several countries. This is one killed in every three and one-half engaged. In the Russo-Japanese war there were 558,000 killed out of total forces of 2,500,000, or about one in every four.

From all the indications to hand the death list in the present war will run up to one in every three engaged, as the war is bound to last