

published in the December number of the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, Dr. Bantock accuses Mr. Thornton of wilful misrepresentation in his references to Dr. B.'s public statements, and considers that Mr. Thornton is acting contrary to all precedent in quoting, without permission, the records of unpublished cases of his colleague in the Samaritan Hospital. We fear there is an absence of brotherly love existing between these two distinguished surgeons, who are working in the same hospital. Is it possible that Bantock has gone over to the enemy, Lawson Tait, the man from Birmingham, to whom Knowsley Thornton is not fondly attached?

**HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATES.**—This preparation has now for some years been so favourably known to the profession, that any commendation by us might appear superfluous. We have used it somewhat extensively during the last few months, and have been very much impressed by its great value in cases of neurasthenia from whatever cause. It is palatable, and can be easily combined with other remedies. There is no doubt but that it is an excellent nerve tonic.

We notice with regret the death of Dr. Mahomed, formerly secretary of the General Committee of the British Medical Association on the Collective Investigation of Disease. He was a rising physician, and one who, although still young, had made a reputation in scientific investigation. We have a very distinct recollection of his striking figure and animated mode of speaking in the British Medical Association. His principal work was on the sphygmograph; but he has also written on many other medical topics.

### BACILLUS OF SYPHILIS.

Dr. Lustgarten, assistant in the Skin Clinic at Vienna, has discovered what he claims to be the bacillus of syphilis. It resembles, to some extent, the bacillus of tuberculosis, but differs from it in that it is always found within the cells. Koch examined the specimens and found that they differed morphologically from the

bacteria of tuberculosis. Experiments in cultivation and inoculation must first be made before much credence will be given to the discovery. It would be interesting to enumerate the various bacteria of syphilis which have appeared and vanished from the field of pathological research.

### OIL OF WINTERGREEN IN RHEUMATISM.

Dr. Seelye reports results of treatment in 118 cases of rheumatism with oil of gaultheria, in the *New York Medical Journal*. He says the medicine may be given in capsules alone or with salicylate of sodium or in soda water. The most common method used in acute cases was by the following formula:

R. Ol. Gaultheriæ ..... ℥xx  
Glycerin.....  
Aq ..... āāī

Give this dose every two hours during day, and every three hours during night.

By this treatment pain and swelling generally left joints in twenty-four hours. Before, or by this time the patient would generally complain of some ringing in the ears and deafness, similar to that produced by large doses of quinine, but probably not so marked. The dose was then diminished, and only one drachm given every three or four hours. The symptoms caused by the remedy were more severe in those accustomed to alcoholic liquors—delirium sometimes supervening.

This treatment, it is claimed, will speedily cure in 85 p. c. of cases; and, by actual comparison, has been found more efficacious than that with the sodium salicylate.

Dr. Crocker, in an article in the recent number of *Brain*, headed, "Lesions of the Nervous System etologically related to Cutaneous Disease," gives the result of an investigation of the published records of a large number of cases in whom nerve lesions were followed by lesions of the skin. Among others he mentions three cases—two related by Schwumminer and one by Dr. Meyer, of Strasbourg—in whom bullous eruptions were caused by a sclerosed condition