

During the same period the percentage of deaths was reversed at the above asylums, *i. e.*, those under homœopathic treatment averaged 4.24 per cent. and those under allopathic treatment 7.14 per cent."

After reading the above sweeping denunciation of everything not in accord with the way of thinking of the Missouri doctors, their Ontario brethren would be justified in considering themselves an excessively modest set of fellows."

PECULIARITIES OF THE X RAYS.

Dr. Andrew Wilson in his Science Jottings in the February, 1897, number of the *Illustrated London News* gives a pleasing suggestion of the possibilities for further usefulness which may perhaps be yet found in the recently discovered power of the Roentgen Rays. The doctor says: "That there is more in the X-Rays than at first sight appears is evinced by the accounts we are receiving of certain peculiar effects these rays exert on the human skin. In one case a patient lost his hair after exposure to the influence of the Rontgen rays, and now we hear of cases in which skin-inflammation has been produced by them. The symptoms described by a medical man who had subjected himself for scientific purposes to the new photography were of fairly severe character. These incidents appear to prove that the rays are of singularly powerful nature, and that some useful application or other of the at present undesirable effects may not be at all an unlikely discovery. It would indeed prove interesting if, in addition to their diagnostic powers, a curative action of the rays was noted."

Under Homœopathic treatment the death rate from diphtheria has never been as high as the lowest rate claimed for the serum treatment. But this fact is steadily ignored by the medical gentlemen who claim to be "regular."

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VARICELLA—VARIOLA.

THEIR SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT.

The outbreak of small-pox in Montreal gives special prominence to that disease and to its ally, chicken-pox, which at times closely resembles the more dangerous disease. The two are so intimately related that a severe case of chicken-pox is often mistaken for small-pox.

Chicken-pox is essentially a disease of childhood, and seldom gives any cause for alarm. It spreads by contagion, and epidemics are of annual occurrence. The child has a slight fever, and on the second day an eruption appears. This comes out irregularly and in successive crops. Small rose-red papules are first noticed. These quickly develop into vesicles, which vary from a dozen or two to a hundred or more in number. The eruption is found principally on the back and in the hair. The face is seldom affected. There is not much fever except in isolated cases, when the temperature may reach 104° or more with a profuse eruption and severe symptoms. These rare cases are the ones mistaken for small-pox. The course of chicken-pox seldom exceeds eight or ten days. Complete and early recovery is the rule. Very little medicine is required. Rhus tox is the best general remedy, and should be given as soon as possible. Merc. Sol. 6x may be needed if any suppuration takes place. Attention should be paid to the diet. Give simple, plain food. Milk is to be preferred. The child must be taken from school and kept away from other children as a matter of protection to the public.

Variola, or small-pox, is a disease dreaded by people of all nations. It is highly infectious and attacks children and adults with equal severity. The average period of incubation in small-pox is twelve days. Sometimes, however, the disease will not appear after exposure, until the fifteenth day. During this period the child usually shows no symptoms of the disease. There is generally an abrupt invasion. A chilliness or distinct rigor is followed by high fever, headache, vomiting, great prostration and severe pain in the back and loins. About the third day the rash appears in the form of red spots, first on the face and quickly extending to the scalp and neck. It next invades the trunk, extremities and palms of hands and soles of feet. The eruption comes