

cloths for six months or even a year. It does not form spores. Exposure to temperatures above 140° F, readily destroy it, and it is readily influenced by germicides.

Guinea pigs, cats, rabbits, pigeons and fowls, are influenced by inoculation. Mice and rats are not affected. If cultures are applied to excoriated mucous surfaces diphtheritic patches are produced and general symptoms supervene. If death does not take place too rapidly characteristic diphtheritic paralysis usually supervenes. The post mortem appearances found are congestion and effusion into the serous cavities, glandular swellings, and degenerative lesions in the viscera muscles, and peripheral nerves. The bacillus is never found beyond the point of inoculation, even at the seat of inoculation it sometimes disappears if death is delayed. Cultures obtained from diphtheritic throats vary greatly in virulence. In some instances they induce death in a very short time with symptoms like those of acute poisoning, on the other hand some are absolutely harmless.

The metabolic products admit of isolation from cultures. They are of an albuminoid nature and exceedingly poisonous, thus Roux and Yersin were able to kill a number of rabbits with a quantity less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain.

These morbid changes induced by the tox-albumen are identical, with those observed in human beings, but no local changes such as the formation of membrane take place.

From all these it is considered tolerably certain that the local symptoms of diphtheria are due to the action of a specific micro-organisms on a weakened mucosa or a wounded surface; that once having gained a footing it gives rise to an acute inflammatory process, resulting in the formation of membranes that are so characteristic of true diphtheria.

The absorption of the poison set free by the vital activity of the organisms

gives rise to the constitutional manifestations, and the peculiar degenerative changes that underlie most of the sequelae. These are the most important facts for consideration.

As will be seen by advertisement the next annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Medical Society will be held at Bridgewater on the first Wednesday of July. A fear is entertained by many that the Maritime Association is likely to impair the usefulness of the Provincial Association. We do not share in this view, and look forward to an unusually interesting gathering, for many reasons needless to mention. In other associations it has been found advantageous to select one or more topics for discussion, making at the same time arrangements with gentlemen to open and continue the debate. It certainly relieves the monotony and set character of the proceedings, and is an experiment worthy of trial. Probably the most prominent item of business will be the election of representatives to our medical parliament. We are informed that the local committee will spare no effort to make the meeting attractive in other respects, being desirous that visitors shall carry away favorable impressions of the county of Lunenburg and the thriving town on the banks of the beautiful LaHave.

We add with pleasure to our list of exchanges the *Ontario Medical Journal*, the official organ of the Medical Councils of Ontario and British Columbia. The discussion of medical politics, a prominent feature of the publication, will be of interest to the profession throughout the Dominion.

Professor Robert has discovered that peroxide of hydrogen is an antidote for hydrocyanic acid poison. It should be given freely by the mouth and subcutaneously until recovery or death.