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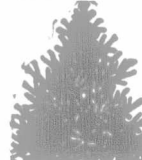
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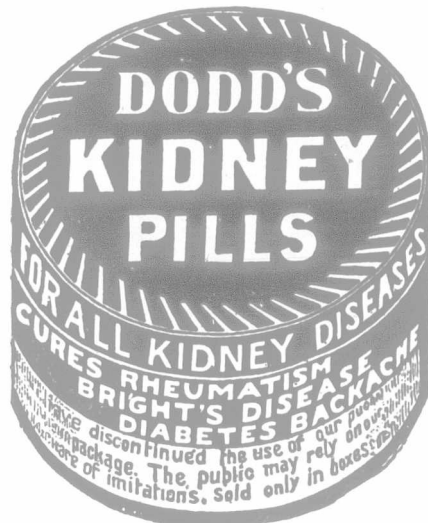


Trappers

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blood serum of a healthy person. The relative activity of normal serum for phagocytosis or "digestion" of bacteria, to the abnormal activity of the patient's serum, was called the opsonic index, and by an ingenious technique this opsonic index can be accurately determined in every instance. In other words, Dr.



Wright obtained an exact mathematical gauge of the patient's ability to resist his disease. He could say definitely that a patient with a low opsonic index was at least a candidate for infection by a particular microbe. The importance of the application of this general fact to particular patients may be readily comprehended.

FINDING THE CURE.

After determining the power of the patient to overcome bacteria, the next problem was as to what could be done in the way of increasing the patient's resisting power to the particular microbe that affected him. In the solution of this problem the principle of vaccine was employed. Cultures of the infecting bacteria were made and devitalized at a comparatively low temperature, so low that, though life was rendered extinct, the chemical constitution of their protoplasm was not greatly altered. The patient was inoculated with this vaccine, and it was found that the opsonic index was in a few days considerably increased, or in other words, the white blood corpuscles of the patient digested much more rapidly the infecting bacteria. Thus his progress towards recovery was accelerated in proportion as the opsonic index was raised. The raising of the opsonic index was found to depend upon the quantity of vaccine with which the patient was successively inoculated, and final recovery depended upon keeping the resistance of the patient's blood as high as possible during the whole course of inoculation.

The solution of the problem of the cure of bacterial diseases seems, therefore, to resolve itself into, first, the determining of the specific germ which causes the disease; secondly, the finding of the patient's opsonic index, or exact relative power of resistance to the disease as compared with that of the normal healthy person; and, finally, the inoculation of the patient with the proper vaccine, thereby increasing his power of resistance. Thus the new treatment proceeds along definite lines in each case. There is no guesswork as to diagnosis or remedy. Mathematics and bacteriology go hand-in-hand as the medical practitioner's chief weapons against disease. A new type of practitioner appears. He says to the patient, "You are infected with a particular microbe and my business is to find out the microbe, your power of resistance to it, make a vaccine from it and inoculate you and bring up the resisting power of your blood."

WHERE GREAT BRITAIN GETS ITS WHEAT FROM.

England's wheat importation for 1905 amounted to 97,622,752 hundredweight. Russia supplied a fraction more than one-quarter of this (24,703,200), Argentina a little less than another quarter (23,236,400), and the British East Indies a little less than a third quarter (22,807,422). Australia supplied 10,004,700 hundredweight, the United States 6,634,700, and Canada 6,522,030. The imports of 1904 were approximately the same as those of 1905.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE A.B.A.

The annual meeting of the American Breeders' Association will be held at Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 15-18. The second annual report is out, and will be sent to all paid-up members. The dues are one dollar per annum. The secretary is W. M. Hayes, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS THE DUAL-PURPOSE COW.

Prof. Munford has at the Illinois Experiment Station done considerable to throw light on beef production and the profitable handling of cattle. On that great question of the dual purpose cow he has made the following statements:

"The dual purpose cow is an established fact. It is not claimed that the type has reached permanency or that it has acquired a high degree of excellence. Numerically, from the viewpoint of the breeder of pedigreed cattle, her race is relatively insignificant. Speaking in general, she exists on many

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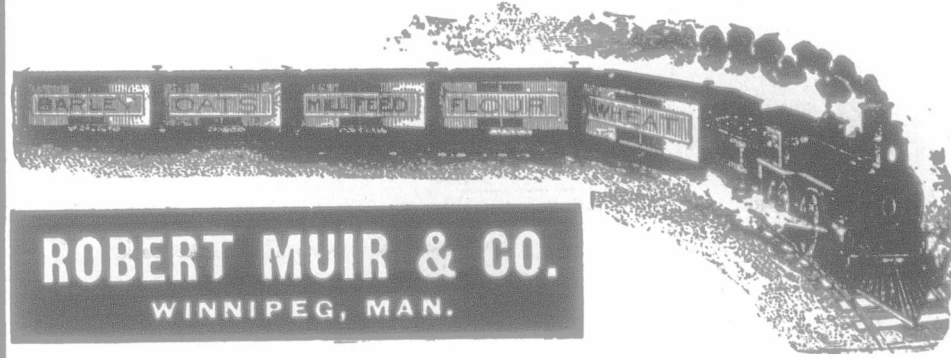
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