

suffer not only from blood poisoning, but also from severe diarrhoea, and the droppings have power to spread the disease. On the contrary the infected rabbits with few exceptions, remain free from diarrhoea, and die of pure blood poisoning. The microbes are chiefly in the blood. If these microbes are to infect other rabbits in any number, the bodies of the rabbits dead from the disease must be broken up by decomposition or by the agency of carrion birds, etc., and the microbes so set free must contaminate the food of other rabbits. If the dead bodies lie in burrows, it will be remembered the rabbits do not feed there. If they lie open and the microbes are set free at a temperature of 125° or by the mere process of drying at a much lower temperature, it will suffice to destroy their virulence. Moreover, the experience of Dr. Katz indicated that while microbes retain their virulence for a time when mixed with putrifying matter, there is a limit to their power of survival. Generally, therefore, it appears that the destruction of rabbits on a large scale by the chicken cholera can be obtained only by feeding the rabbits with microbes of disease. Other poisons such as arsenic and phosphorus will kill the rabbits to which they are administered. The Commission cannot recommend that permission be given to disseminate broadcast through Australia a disease which has not yet been shown to exist in these colonies, and which in other countries prevails in disastrous epidemics among fowls, but which has never been known to prevail naturally among rabbits. The Commission has found no evidence to warrant the belief that any known disease can be so employed as to exterminate rabbits. Amongst other things the Commission found that chicken cholera will not affect domestic animals other than birds, and that wild birds are not so subject to it as fowls and rabbits. They are therefore not prepared to recommend the Government to forbid M. Pasteur to experiment with chicken cholera in an infested country, subject to certain restrictions. From this, however, Professor Allen dissents, as he objects to any such experiment.

TAR WATER.—The ghost of Bishop Berkeley would be delighted to find that tar-water is once more receiving attention and being used as a remedial agent in many diseases.