EDITORIAL

ARMY MEDICAL MATTERS.

The following article in the *New York Medical Journal*, of recent date, sums up a number of important matters in the medical affairs of the European armies that we give it hear:—

"Colonel Hausen, surgeon in chief of the Swiss army, in a recent important address before the Central Medical Society of Switzerland, put forth his observations made in many visits paid by him in recent months to the French and German military hospitals.

"A well known fact is that for some months at the beginning of the war emphysematous gangrene and tetanus were prevalent, but these infections are much less common now. Prophylactic vaccination for tetanus done as soon as possible after receipt of the wound, has given excellent results. The decrease in cases of emphysematous gangrene has been favored by prompt and complete disinfection of the wound, and in many cases by a rapid transportation of the wounded to the rear. In the treatment of gangrene antisepsis has brilliantly affirmed its superiority over asepsis and, generally speaking it may be that in war surgery antisepsis plays a greater part than in times of peace.

"Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis has occurred sporadically from time to time, but radical general hygiene measures have easily kept the disease under control. The value of the therapeutic use of serum cannot be estimated with certainty as yet, but in the French army the results have been most happy. Smallpox has been observed, but it is mild in degree and the number of cases is small, thanks to vaccination.

"Typhoid, dysentery, and cholera have appeared epidemically at certain points. The former has been met with in all the armies, even in the Swiss, and the same may be said of dysentery; the majority of cases do not result from ameba, but from infection from Shiga's bacillus. Cholera has appeared only in the oriental theatre of the war. Antityphoid vaccination has been resorted to in the English, French, and German armies and apparently the results have been good, and