

Editorial Notes

ANTIVIVISECTION HYSTERIA

At the close of the year which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Pasteur Institute, it is fitting to look back and with grateful appreciation survey the incalculable benefits which have come to us through the labor of such men as Pasteur, Tyndall, and Lister. We cannot here attempt an exhaustive account of all the triumphs that have come to medicine and surgery through the discovery of bacterial origin of infectious diseases, and through the aseptic methods and antitoxin serum therapy based upon this discovery. We must be satisfied to single out a few of the most significant facts.

Let figures tell their eloquent tale:

MORTALITY AMONG PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH SEVERAL DISEASES.

Disease.	Before	After
	Introduction of Serum Therapy and Asepsis.	
Rabies	About 16	Practically 0
Lockjaw	About 80	Practically 0
Diphtheria	About 30	About 8
Meningitis	About 80	About 20
Plague	5	0.4
Puerperal fever in hospitals	5 to 57	0.1
Compound fractures	67	Less than 1

Ex-President Taft, in an address before the Medical Club of Philadelphia, on May 4th, 1911, said: "Of the volunteer regiments mobilized during the Spanish-American war, ninety per cent. became infected with typhoid fever within eight weeks from the date of mobilization. To-day, two months after mobilization, with modern health regulation and the use of vaccination against typhoid, not one case of typhoid fever has appeared in the entire force except that of one teamster, who was not vaccinated."

Regarding the ravages of yellow fever during the French Panama Canal enterprise, before the cause of the disease was understood, we quote from an article by Dr. Orenstein, as published in our issue of November 9th, 1912: "The family of a French chief engineer consisted of five; four died of yellow fever. Of the five members of the family of the superintendent of the railroad,