

Selections.

The Appearance of the Typhoid Bacillus in the Urine.

Schichhold (*Deutsch. Archiv. f. klin. Med.*) examined the urine of a number of typhoid patients, and in contradistinction to other investigators, who found typhoid bacilli in the urine when the kidneys were healthy, "recovered the organism only in those cases in which evidence of renal disease existed." They appeared shortly after the onset of the kidney trouble, and lasted well into the convalescence. They appeared to be highly virulent, so the disease may be transmitted through the urine. In such cases of 'nephro-typhoid,' the danger of infection, for the attendant, should not be underrated.

Physiological Effects of Castration in the Male and Female.

A great deal of speculation has found expression in contributions to the study of the physiological effects of castration in the male and female, but, in truth, it is fundamentally erroneous to treat the two operations as if they had anything in common. The ovary is not a gland like the testis, and it is hardly likely, therefore, that the former possesses any internal secretion akin to that which is held to be furnished by the testis. The loss of this internal secretion in the male is credited with the production of more or less marked depression, which not infrequently culminates in melancholia. In the female, on the other hand, the functions of the ovaries which call for removal have generally long since fallen into abeyance, so that the ablation of functionally inactive organs is not likely to entail any corresponding constitutional disturbance. With regard to the sexual appetite, its preservation or otherwise must greatly depend upon circumstances. The loss of the ovaries in an unmarried female usually leaves the sexual appetite undeveloped, whereas in a married woman the nervous system has received previous impressions which may keep awake and prolong the period of sexual activity. The same thing holds good in males. If the testicles are removed before puberty no sexual appetite is developed, but if what we may call the sexual habit has been formed the nervous system reacts to certain stimuli as a matter of routine, even though the original essential stimulus is wanting. After all, these are details of no practical importance, because the conditions which call for castration on the one hand and removal of the ovaries on the other are always such as to render the question of sexual appetite a point of more than secondary importance.—*Med. Press and Circular.*