

THE severe epidemic of enteric (typhoid) fever which prevailed at Iron Mountain, Mich., last summer, in which there were 350 cases with 10 per cent. of fatalities, all arising, it appears, from one imported case infecting the already impure water of the town, has been investigated by Dr. Vaughan, of the Laboratory of Hygiene of the Michigan University. His experiments are highly interesting, and appear conclusive.

FLASKS of sterilized meat preparation were inoculated with Iron Mountain water and other flasks with suspected water from a Lansing well, while others were not inoculated at all. The flasks inoculated with the Iron Mountain water became strongly alkaline and were reduced to a syrupy consistence. A few drops of the syrup injected into cats soon increased the temperature two or more degrees. Injection of potato culture caused ulcers in the intestines of a cat. That the water contained the typhoid bacillus was demonstrated by physiological experiment, potato culture and microscopical examination.

EBERTH'S oval bacillus, now believed to be the germ of typhoid fever, is as large as the red blood-corpuscles of man, and about three times as long as broad, though sometimes growing to long threads. Whether or not this germ produces spores is a question of much interest. Gaffky has found them in certain cultures, kept at the temperature of the human body, and Sternberg and others have confirmed it. Others have not been able to find spores. Germ-spores resist disinfectants which destroy germs. Another point of interest is the capability of this germ to resist high and low temperatures, as shown by Prudden, who succeeded in growing them after they had been frozen in ice 103 days, and after they had been heated to 56° C. (San. Rec., Feb., '88.) This confirms the belief that typhoid fever may be induced by the use of impure ice.

FROM recent experiments, Prof. Botkin (*L'Union Med. du Can.*) asserts that:—Bitters diminish the digestive powers, retard digestion, and diminish the quantity of peptones. They diminish the secretion of the gastric juices; if they produce a feeling of hunger, it is only by irritating the gastric mucous membrane. They have no influence upon the secretion of the pancreatic juice or the bile. Nor do they diminish, but actually promote, fermentation in the contents of the stomach. From all this, contrary to current views, bitters are of no use in the treatment of disorders of the digestion.

A WRITER in an exchange contends that as the two instincts, procreation and hunger, underlie the very existence of the human race, the origin of much of the evil which afflicts the human race must be looked for in the abuse of these two instincts. There is doubtless much truth in this.

CREOLINE, the new antiseptic, is a derivative of coal-tar. It is possessed of very marked bacillicide properties, a solution of 1:1,000 sterilizing cultures of the cholera bacillus. Its deodorizing properties are equally remarkable, a very small quantity of the above solution removing the offensive smell of putrefying liquids.