

morning; each injection was followed by profuse sweats and salivation, and dyspnœa was greatly relieved. The patient rapidly recovered. In administering pilocarpin, M. Mollière was guided by former experience. An elderly man with uræmia, accompanied with dyspnœa and delirium, who seemed dying, was greatly relieved and ultimately cured by a similar treatment. Dr. Mollière describes another case. A young woman with a comatose form of uræmia and renal lesion, following a cardiac affection, was freed from the comatose condition by injections of pilocarpin.—*Med. & Surg. Reporter*.

Bacteriology.—The rapid advances of bacteriology during the last few years, and the important rôle which bacteria play both in health and disease, give great interest to a sketch of the chief facts which have been made out with regard to these minor organisms, and of the methods of investigation employed in their study, which Mr. Watson Cheyne presents in the July number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. A knowledge of what has been discovered with regard to these minute bodies is essential for the study of pathology, and for the rational treatment of infective diseases. But it is more especially in the department of preventive medicine that the practical value of these researches is as yet evident. So long as the precise cause of a disease is unknown, the views held as to its origin must necessarily be vague, and the measures adopted against it often either inefficient or excessive. But when the cause is known, and more especially when it can be studied apart from the body, its life history, its habitat outside the body, its mode of entrance into the system, and the best methods of destroying it under various conditions are learned, and the measures to be adopted against it can be made precise and effectual. It is not, however, sufficient for the medical officer of health to know the literature of the subject; he must himself be a bacteriologist, ready and able at any moment to carry out an investigation on bacteria. More especially must he be acquainted with the methods of demonstrating, recognizing and studying these organisms in water, food, etc., with the view of determining in many cases whether these substances are hurtful or not, and also with the view of