

haps this neutralizing action was due to mucin. Experiments, however, were negative. Sterile extracts of other organs as of the liver, lungs, brain and supra renals were tried, but proved to have no action on the diphtheria toxine. Now, if to a toxic dose of diphtheria toxine one adds pancreatic juice and the mixture is injected at once, the animal survives. The action of the pancreatic enzyme, however, is more energetic if the mixture is placed in the thermostat 16 to 24 hours. Sterile gastric juice acts similarly but more weakly. That this action is not due essentially to the acid of the gastric juice or the alkali of the pancreatic secretion is proved by the fact that even after neutralization both preserve this action. Aqueous extracts of the pancreatic gland also have this power. On the contrary,

the pancreatic juice had only a slight action on the tetanus toxine (14 out of 18 animals dying), while on the other hand, gastric juice has a more marked action (7 out of 14 surviving), but now, if to the mixture of pancreatic juice and tetanus toxine gall is added, all animals survive. Perhaps it may be possible to render virulent bacteria avirulent by the addition of pancreatic juice or bile to their media. This work throws a new light on the digestive juices, and explains why pathogenic bacteria may remain in the intestine without injury to the organism.

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LOCAL TREATMENT OF NEURALGIA.—Menthol, Guaiacol $\frac{1}{10}$ I.O.; alcohol. absol. 18, applied 2 to 3 times a day on cotton.—*Therap. monatsh.*, 1898 p. 360.

Physician's Library.

Diseases of the Stomach. By WM. W. VAN VALSAH, M.D., Professor of General Medicine and Diseases of the Digestive System and the Blood, New York Polyclinic; and J. DOUGLAS NISBIT, M.D., Adjunct Professor of General Medicine and Diseases of the Digestive System and the Blood, New York Polyclinic. Octavo volume of 670 pages. Illustrated. Cloth, \$3.50 net. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, Publisher. Toronto: J. A. Carveth & Company.

This book will be found above all a practical one. Although constituting a valuable contribution to scientific medicine, it is intended primarily as a working guide for the student and practising physician. To this end the chief attention is devoted to the most approved methods of diagnosis and treatment. Beginning with a classificatory introduction, a chapter is devoted to diagnosis and diagnostic

methods and one to general medication and treatment. After this the various diseases are taken up in order and treated in a logical way, beginning with etiology, and passing through the phases of pathology, clinical description, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. The methods of examination given and the apparatus recommended, while sufficient for special advanced stomach-work, are not too elaborate and complicated for the general practitioner. Indeed, the needs of the practising physician are kept constantly in mind throughout the book. The subject of treatment is presented in such a way as to leave no doubt in the reader's mind what course to pursue in a given case. Although numerous authorities are cited, the authors are perfectly clear as to what their experience has found most useful, and they do not hesitate to recommend a definite course of procedure under definite conditions.