

of the views that bacteria played so important a rôle in pathology. The method of staining had not been discovered. A great deal of time had to be spent in getting over the preliminary difficulties of staining and making cultures. Contrast then with now !

Lister discovered the process of fractional cultivation in the case of the bacterium lactis. By this research a great step was made in the proof that certain bacteria were specific. Koch then published his results on the infective diseases of wounds. He explained his methods of cultivation on solid media. These investigations were the foundations for modern bacteriology. From this point research followed two paths. First, that for the discovery of the organism for each infective disease ; and second, the study of the life history of bacteria, and the effects of introducing them, or their products into the living body. The alterations in cells and serum, protection, toxins and antitoxins, chemiotaxis, immunity, have all arisen from this study of the life and doings of the various bacteria.

In speaking of inflammation, it was held that it and healing were two different processes. It was held that inflammation is the means by which nature gets rid of noxious products, or neutralizes their effects. Healing, on the other hand, is the process that repairs defects, whether caused by injury and associated by inflammation or not. The fact is, inflammation must be followed by repair if recovery is to take place, while repair need not be preceded by inflammation. It is often under the microscope that both processes are seen side by side.

The enormous advantages of these researches with regard to diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment cannot be estimated. Diagnosis can now be made that formerly would be doubtful, or impossible. Means of treatment of the highest value, such as the antitoxin for diphtheria, have been introduced. The whole story of the prevention of infection, medical and surgical, is now placed on a solid foundation. Pestilences and scourges are now held in chains by the strong arm of scientific knowledge. The saving of life and the avoidance of suffering are beyond calculation.

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THE next meeting of the International Medical Congress will take place in Paris, in 1900, under the presidency of Prof. Lannelongue.

PROF. VICOR HORSLEY, who is the strongest candidate for the vacancy in the General Medical Council of England, has addressed a meeting of the medical profession in furtherance of his candidature. He declared in favor of what he called the one portal system, that is, a single State examination, instead of the dozen or more on which the authorities at present are empowered to grant medical diplomas.