

perimental investigation. By Ehrlich's explanation of the phenomena of hemolysis *the phenomenon of bacteriolysis is shown to be nothing more nor less than the reproduction of a function of normal cell life.* Of great interest is Ehrlich's ingenious comparison of the chemical process, by which the toxins of the body are made innocuous by a process of immunization, to that of bacteriolysis, and the analogy of the latter process to the process of digestion in animal and vegetable life. The results of Erlich's research with regard to the nature of immunity and the process of artificial immunization appear to be far-reaching indeed, and the scientific horizon concerning the nature of digestion may thereby be enlarged in a heretofore undreamed of measure by the new and important light which his investigations may throw upon the physiology of that important process.—(*Medical Review.*)

### OBESITY, GOUT AND DIABETES.

Ebstein (*Deut. Med. Woch.*; *Brit. Med. Jour.*) discusses the relationship of these three conditions and their exact place in the classification of disease. In all a family predisposition exists. This heredity has been most often noted in children who most resemble their parent in external appearance. Often in families there exists through many generations a tendency to obesity, when the disease may appear quite early in life notwithstanding moderate living and sufficient exercise. It has been stated that the obese possess a much less power of tissue combustion than others, and that metabolism is diminished. Ebstein does not agree with the first view, but thinks that the second may be correct. Apparently there is a predisposition on the part of the cells in the obese to take up more fat than the cells of healthy individuals. The frequent co-existence of gout and obesity is strongly suggestive of a relationship between these affections.

Duckworth drew attention to the early occurrence of obesity in gouty families. On the other hand, lean individuals suffer from gout. If both obesity and gout exist in the same individual, obesity precedes gout. Obesity is widely distributed, whereas gout is more limited as regards the regions in which it prevails. In his own investigations Ebstein discovered inflammatory and necrotic foci in gout where urates crystallized out. These necrotic areas can be experimentally brought about in birds with their uric acid containing urine, if their ureters are tied, or if by means of poisons which produce necrosis in the renal parenchyma the excretion of uric acid is diminished.

In the ordinary attack of gout there is considerable de-