

trap literature of the medical schools carefully distributed so as to wake into activity the latent desire of every plough boy to become "a doctor." The unpleasant fact remains that the medical profession has had a terrible come down in the last ten years, and in fact is no longer a profession, and the M.D. which formerly was a mark of distinction has become so cheap and common that it is not worth the paper it is written on.

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## Miscellaneous.

### Antitoxine Treatment for Diphtheria.

THE following are some of the conclusions arrived at by those who discussed the antitoxine treatment of diphtheria at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association :

Dr. Sidney Martin summed up by saying that his experiments tended to show that the antitoxic serum is capable of counteracting the poisons which are found in the tissues of patients dead of diphtheria. It has only a slight effect upon the febrile rise of temperature produced by the albumen, but it completely counteracts the fatty degeneration of the heart produced by these substances, and to a great extent also the nerve degeneration.

Dr. E. W. Goodall's paper went to prove that antitoxine does not prevent the occurrence of paralysis ; it does not lessen the incidence of albuminuria, nor will it, if employed too late, prevent anuria.

Dr. Alex. Johnston, in his paper, said he had noticed a more rapid separation of the membrane than he expected in many cases. Sudden improvement after injections had been distinguished by its absence. Paralysis of the soft palate had been noticed in about the same proportion of cases as formerly. No benefit was seen from the use of the drug in cases *in extremis*.

Prof. Dr. Von Ranke gave his mortality statistics, those for the last four years being : 1891, 46.0% ; 1892, 56.2% ; 1893, 46.0% ; 1894, till September 24th, 57.0% ; from September 24th, 1894, till July 1st, 1895, 17.7%. In twenty-seven cases of undoubted diphtheritic croup, symptoms of laryngostenosis subsided after the injection. The paper closed by, "We have really got in the serum treatment a most powerful and specific remedy against that disease."

Mr. Lennox Browne took a somewhat conservative view. He concluded by saying that it was abundantly evident that with suitable