

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS in all the principal cities and towns, and in many villages and townships too, receive this JOURNAL. We again ask them to be kind enough to forward to us a copy of their annual report. It is usually published by the local press and so a copy is easily mailed. There is not room in the JOURNAL for the full reports, but we often find points in them which by being selected, and published therein may be suggestive and useful to other officers as well as to general sanitary progress in the Dominion.

KOCH'S REMEDY so [freely] discussed by the press everywhere naturally is a popular subject in view of tuberculosis being the most fatal and costly disease which afflicts humanity. Elsewhere in this issue we give the most reliable opinions regarding the merits and demerits of the remedy. The latest that is reliable is the following from the Supplement of the British Medical Journal of Jan. 24. Drs. Skerritt and Baron reached the German capital on Dec. 5th. They saw a very large number of cases presenting the results of treatment under the most varied conditions, including Koch's original cases at a demonstration given to the Hufeland Society, by Professor Paul Guttman. They sum up as follows:—"The evidence warrants the conclusion that the beneficial effects of the remedy is undoubted in tuberculosis of the skin, bones, joints, glands, and throat. With regard to pulmonary phthisis, whilst there is good reason to hope that in suitable cases a most satisfactory result may be obtained from this treatment, sufficient time has not as yet elapsed to allow of the formation of any accurate estimate of its value." Others contend that there has been abundance of time.

EXPERIMENTS ON CATTLE are mentioned in the same Supplement (of Jan. 24). Prof. Bollinger, of Munich, gives a summary of some experiments made in the Veterinary Institute at Dorpat by W. Guttman. "Guttman concludes that Koch's remedy is a most valuable aid to diagnosis in the case of cattle suspected of tubercle. In this view Professor Bollinger agrees with him." Yet on another page we note that M. Crocq, from a number of experiments, denies that the fluid is of any value even in diagnosis of tubercle and that it will produce the "reaction" in diseases other than tuberculosis.

BROWN-SEQUARD'S FLUID, is mentioned in a

previous Supplement as a valuable remedy in pulmonary tuberculosis. Dr. Uspenski, in a lecture before the Russian Society of Public Hygiene (Deuts. Med. Ziet., Dec. 29th, 1890), gave an account of clinical experiments he had made with Brown-Sequard's "emulsion" in eighteen patients in different stages of this disease. Two of them had been quite "given up." In one of these the patient had gained in a few In the other there was marked improvement, months, after 15 injections, about 26 pounds in weight and had otherwise greatly improved. and in twelve more there was general improvement, with reduction of temperature and diminution of night sweats after from two to four injections. Even amid the unfavourable surroundings of a prison infirmary Uspenski obtained good results by this treatment in seven cases. He considers that Brown-Sequard's fluid has a markedly strengthening effect, and is beneficial in all cases of phthisis without exception.

PREVENTIVE measures after all,—and there is no "getting over" this fact, nor will there ever be,—are our only safe resource if we wish to rid the earth of this "great white plague," consumption. Many remedies or cures will aid in the stamping out of the disease but our reliance must clearly be in the destruction of the bacilli,—by a certain amount of isolation, disinfectants, with sunlight, in short, absolute cleanliness everywhere,—*outside the body*, before they can gain access to it, and in fortifying the entire bodily structure, especially the lungs, and so destroying or lessening the favorable soil for the growth and multiplication of the bacilli. When will the masses learn this and not rely upon "cure?"

SMALL-POX will cure the disease, it is said; but who should desire to apply the remedy? Dr. Lawrence, of Chepstow, Eng., reports (Brit. Med. Jr. Jan. 24, '91) two cases, in "the last stage" of consumption which entirely recovered after an attack of small-pox; both with large vomice and great emaciation. The small-pox was of a virulent type, with very high temperature. The patients were well nursed and supported, fed hourly with liquid nourishment and brandy, and both recovered from the small-pox, and at once the pulmonary symptoms disappeared. This was "some years ago." "The patients laid on flesh, and are now the living images of health."