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EDITORIAL

DR. FRIEDMANN'S TREATMENT.

When it was announced that Dr. F. F. Friedmann would pay a visit to Toronto, and other cities in this country, we bespoke for him a fair hearing, and that he be accorded every opportunity to make good his claims to having discovered a method of treatment of value for tuberculosis. At Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and London he was given an opportunity of administering his turtle bacilli to many patients in various stages of the disease, and afflicted in many organs of the body. We then made the statement that secrecy could only be permitted under the condition that he required time to perfect his methods before he gave it out to the profession in general. This course was adopted by Ehrlich in the case of salvarsan for the treatment of syphilis.

In our issue of a month ago, we said that the time for secrecy had expired. We took the position that, as Dr. Friedmann was treating patients and was himself a member of the medical profession, and coming in constant touch with members of the medical profession, it was no longer possible nor proper to surround the treatment with any air of mysticism or secrecy. This could only have the effect of creating a morbid curiosity on the part of the public, and a feeling of distrust on the part of the profession. A time must come, indeed, had come, when the medical profession, if true to traditions, must turn its back upon any methods of occultism.

The fact that the bacilli employed by Dr. Friedmann are obtained from the turtle has been for some time known. On this phase of the case there is no secrecy. There is, however, a strict secrecy maintained with regard to the methods of culture, dosage, the conformation to the laws of bacteriology and such like. On all these points Dr. Friedmann should make haste to take those who are familiar with bacterial science into his confidence.

It is easy to create false hopes. Perhaps there is no class of sufferers