

certain micro-organisms, is greater than that of any other chemical substance with which experiments have been made. Non-pathogenic micro-organisms possess greater power of resisting this substance than do the pathogenic organisms. If a sublimate solution of the strength of 1 in 25,000 were allowed to act for ten or fifteen minutes on virulent anthrax bacilli from the blood of a guinea-pig, the bacilli did not produce fatal anthrax in sheep, and the animals were protected from subsequent infection with virulent anthrax material. Dr. Klein proposes a scheme for the protective vaccination of sheep in this way; the preparation of the "vaccine" is very simple, when compared with M. Pasteur's method, it being only necessary to mix a quantity of blood with a given bulk of the sublimate, and to keep the mixture for a quarter of an hour before using it.

On the remarkable prophylactic powers of corrosive sublimate, Dr. Cash has been making experiments, reported in the volume above named. It was found that a rabbit, after receiving during seventeen days an amount of corrosive sublimate equal to about a quarter-of-a-millionth of its weight (or to a rabbit weighing two pounds, about the 280th part of a grain per day), suffered but slightly and rapidly recovered after inoculation with anthrax virus which caused the death of undrugged animals in four days.

AN epidemic of diphtheria, strongly suspected to have been caused by milk, has recently occurred at Ealing, England. Twelve or fourteen cases of a very serious nature have come under the notice of the Medical Health Officer, and among these there have been eight or nine deaths. "There is as yet no positive evidence of the exact cause of this sudden outbreak, but there is a strong presumption that milk was the vehicle of infection, for out of some thirty cases which came to the knowledge of the medical officer, twenty-eight were, it is said, persons whose milk supply came from the same dairy."

FOURTEEN more centenarians, making sixty-six in all, are now reported upon by the "Collective Investigation Committee" of the British Medical Association. Dr. Humphrey (Prof. of Surg. Univ., Cambridge,) in the report states that "The

greater number of these old people enjoyed life with fair vigor of body and mind, had good appetites and digestion, were and had been small or moderate eaters, and small consumers of alcohol and meat, and had little illness or ailment."

THE British Gynaecological Society, at a recent meeting, Mr. Lawson Tait, F. R. C. S., in the chair, discussed the question, "Ought craniotomy to be abolished?" Statistics were produced to show that by a comparison of the relative mortality of craniotomy and the Sanger method of performing the Cæarean section, this question was rapidly approaching an affirmative solution. Dr. Meadows, who read a paper on the subject said, the rule which he wished to lay down was that in no case and under no conditions should a human life ever be sacrificed by the hand of the obstetric practitioner.

PASTEUR'S treatment of hydrophobia is yet far from satisfactory. After referring to some experiments in Germany, the *British Medical Journal* says:—"From the above experiments the conclusion may be drawn that M. Pasteur's method of conferring immunity on animals against the virus of rabies, requires still much further working out, before it can be considered safe or trustworthy; while as to human beings, there are as yet no valid reasons for the institution of a preventive treatment. On the contrary, there is a strong presumption that the actual disease may be produced by the preventive treatment itself."

THE medical faculty of France has this year 168 female students—namely, 83 Russians, 11 English, 7 French, 3 American, 2 Austrian, 1 Turk, and 1 Roumanian.

THE *British Medical Journal* cites a case of poisoning from the accidental swallowing of a piece of analine pencil.

It is maintained that there is in every living being an element of individuality which escapes the law of heredity, and which in man exalts itself into personality.

THE height of man attains its maximum at twenty-five years, according to the *American Lancet*. This is maintained till fifty. Then it diminishes, till at ninety it has lost three inches.