

LABORATORY METHODS FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

SECOND PAPER

As has been stated, the various manipulations to be described are not intended for advanced research work, but are to assist those who desire to carry on these examinations which are simple, yet accurate, and may be done with a small outlay of capital.

In the consideration of the apparatus, the most important instrument is the microscope. This instrument and the use of it is the subject of an article by Dr. Jackson L. Martin, the title, "The Microscope in Diagnosis," contains many good suggestions that we reproduce it in part.

The microscope as an aid to diagnosis in many cases, by bringing to light facts concerning the condition of various organs of the body in obscure conditions, as well as in discovering the specific micro-organism of disease, and thus leading to a diagnosis, is invaluable. Occasionally the anamnesis and physical examination tell us but little, while the exact condition is clearly revealed by the microscope. In other cases where the status presens is not made known, very valuable evidence may be given as to the condition.

What is learned by microscopical examination in the hands of an expert may be relied upon, while what we gather from the patient is often misleading or untrue.

The space of this article will not allow me to more than briefly mention a few of the numerous conditions in which the microscope may be used to advantage, both in cases where the cause is specific, and non-specific.

Bacteria, as the direct cause of many diseases is an acknowledged fact, and to make a positive diagnosis often requires but the recognition of the particular pathogenic micro-organism. As for example, in a case of suspected diphtheria, a swab from the throat may be taken, rubbed over the cover-