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BACTERIO-THERAPY.

Cantani, of Naples, whom our readers remember as the originator of the treatment of cholera by irrigation of the lower bowel with tannin-solution (Review Vol. x, p. 471) has sent a preliminary announcement to the *Centralblatt fuer die medicinischen Wissenschaften*, July 18, 1885, of a therapeutic measure directed to the destruction of the specific microbe of tuberculosis. In our last number we gave a list of chemicals having a destructive influence on the bacillus of tuberculosis, but the practical clinical application of the knowledge therein contained is up to the present not feasible. Cantani hit upon a brilliant idea, which, if a practical success in tuberculosis, will open a most profitable field of investigation that promises to yield results most beneficial to stricken humanity.

The knowledge of the circumstance that certain bacteria destroy the cultures of others, and of certain pathogenic schizomyceti, when added to such cultures, led Cantani to attempt a practical therapeutical application of this faculty in various infectious diseases. He took up tuberculosis first and chose the *Bacterium termo* as his knight-errant to wage war upon the bacillus of Koch.

As a preliminary he established that the *Bacterium termo*, the ordinary micro-organism of putrefaction, is innocuous to the animal economy. He made conjunctival inoculations, injections into the stomach, into the intestine, under the skin, and inhalations by spray upon various animals. After it was fully shown that no harm is done by the *Bacterium*, a first experiment upon a patient was made.

On April 23, 1885, there was admitted to

the hospital a woman, forty-two years old, with a tuberculous history and a cavity in the left apex. She had fever, cough and a profuse purulent expectoration, 90 c. c. being the average amount of sputa in twenty-four hours. Emaciation marked. Her sputa swarmed with tubercle bacilli, and inoculations upon animals developed characteristic tuberculosis in them.

On May 4, an inhalation was made by means of a continuous spray-apparatus of a pure culture of *Bacterium termo* in gelatine diluted with broth. The inhalations were repeated each day with the happy result of greatly reducing the amount of the expectoration. The sputa soon showed fewer bacilli of tuberculosis, and with their gradual diminution the inhaled micro-organism appeared in increasing numbers. On June 1, no bacilli could be discovered and inoculations were of a negative result. The patient had ceased to cough, had lost her fever and had improved in her general nutrition.

This is the only trial Cantani has made up to date, and he states that while he is not so sanguine as to believe that such inhalations of this inimical microbe could reach and destroy the bacilli that are situated in the tissues proper, still a great good must result if the cleansing and purifying effect upon cavities and surfaces should become established. At any rate this experience must encourage to research and other than the tubercle bacilli may expect to be attacked in their strongholds by hostile invasions.

ODORLESS IODOFORM.

Oppler, of Strassburg, has lately found that roasted coffee has decided antiseptic virtues,