

ABSTRACTS.

DIPHTHERIA.

Donald, W. M.—*Diphtheria Antitoxin as an Immunizing Agent.* "N. Y. Med. Journ.," May 21, 1898.

THE writer is a firm believer in the immunizing property of diphtheria antitoxin; and, though the status of the serum as a curative agent is now beyond question, it requires but the careful employment of the antitoxin to make it as satisfactory a prophylactic. He gives records of several outbreaks to verify his conclusions. The doses given varied from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and five hundred units; and it was found that practically as good results were obtained from the smallest dose as from the largest.

Wachenheim, F. L.—*The Clinical Relations of the Klebs-Loeffler Bacillus.* "N. Y. Med. Journ.," June 18, 1898.

AFTER referring briefly to the views of Bretonneau and Virchow on the nature of diphtheria, the writer gives a short *résumé* of the various tonsillar inflammations from a morphological standpoint. The question whether the so-called pseudo-diphtheria bacillus is to be regarded as a distinct germ or an attenuated form of Loeffler's bacillus is still *sub judice*. Loeffler found his bacillus almost entirely restricted to the outer part of the false membrane. In nurses and others exposed to infection, the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus is very frequently found in the fauces. Many believe the bacillus to be the cause of fibrous rhinitis. Notes of sixteen cases are given, in ten of which the bacilli were demonstrated. A short exposition of the value of the early exhibition of sero-therapy concludes the article.

Walsh, John E.—*Diphtheria.* "N. Y. Med. Journ.," June 18, 1898.

THE writer gives a rather detailed account of the disease in its etiology, varieties, symptoms, and treatment. The organisms producing the different forms are, in the order of severity, (1) staphylococcus pyogenes; (2) streptococcus pyogenes; and (3) Klebs-Loeffler bacillus. For these conditions the author suggests the names "staphylo-angina," "strepto-angina," and "angina Klebs-Loeffler." He gives the technique of cultivation and methods of identification of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus. Mortality under twelve years, treated with antitoxin, 16.3 per cent.; not treated such, 41.5 per cent.

NOSE, &C.

Bloebaum, F. (Cologne).—*The Treatment of Hypertrophic Rhinitis by Submucous Cauterization with a New Aseptic Galvano-caustic Needle.* "Monats. für Ohrenheilk.," April, 1898.

Two per cent. saline solution is injected into the submucous tissue. This produces artificial oedema and absolute anaesthesia. A glowing needle is then passed through the submucous tissue parallel to the bone, thus burning a long narrow channel, and this is repeated as often as necessary, all the insertions being made parallel to each other.