LIQ. HYD. PERCHLOR. IN DIPHTHERIA.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH (Accrington) writes: Dr. Coward, in his communication upon the above subject, states that "the addition of potass. iodid. to this mixture does not appear to have any beneficial effect." There is a very good reason. Iodine is set free by the double decomposition set up between the iodide and iron in the mixture he prescribes.

Were Dr. Coward to prescribe the iodide and hyd. perchlor., the biniodide of mercury formed with excess of iodide would give him even better results than he has already got in the treatment of diphtheria, because the biniodide is a much more potent germicide than the bichloride; but no iron perchloride should be given until all the exudation has been stopped. The treatment may be advantageously supplemented by the local application of a solution of the biniodide in iodide of sodium or potassium of the strength of 1 in 500 by means of a straight brush every hour or two.

THE LAY NEWSPAPER AS A MEDICAL CRITIC.

"AN INTELLIGENT READER" writes: The talented young men who write the "leaders" in the daily press never shine so much as when they deal with scientific subjects. In a leading article[1] upon Koch's most recent publication your contemporary the *Standard* illustrates the fact most admirably. We are informed by that journal, in the first place, that the fluid "is a glycerine extract from a pure cultivation of the tubercle bacilli in the bodies of guinea-pigs," "its specific property..... is that it kills the living protoplasm—that unorganised substance which forms the contents of cells in animal and vegetable substances alike—and thus deprives the tubercle bacillus of the conditions necessary to its growth."

Well may the writer proceed that "to the layman all this is only moderately intelligible." His farther conclusion is, however, if anything, rather less intelligible or, at least, acceptable to either physician or layman, namely, that if Professor Virchow's statement be correct "the lymph and all that concerns it *will soon be as much forgotten as the cholera bacillus which Dr. Koch was supposed to have discovered.*" (The italics are mine.) For a serious writer to talk about "pure cultivation in the bodies of guinea-pigs" or to speak of a remedy as "killing living protoplasm and so depriving the tubercle bacillus of the condition necessary to its growth" (very much necessary, one would imagine, to more than the growth of the bacillus) are sufficient exposures, but to speak of Koch's cholera bacillus as "supposed to be discovered" and as quite "forgotten" is a more astonishing example of the kind of knowledge which satisfies the general readers of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

After this one is not astonished to learn that the "bacterial and bacillar origin of disease is the latest fashion in pathology" (a statement only equalled in inaccuracy of fact by inaccuracy of language) or that "the assertion that injections of the lymph destroy tubercle in the lungs is simply an inference."

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:

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[1] *Standard* for Friday, January 16th.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Pocket Medical Lexicon. By J. M. Keating, M.D., and Henry Hamilton. London: H. K. Lewis. 1891.

The Treatment of Consumption; Dr. Koch's Remedy. By A. E. Bridger, B.A., B.Sc., M.D. London: John Hogg. 1891.

La Série Aromatique en Thérapeutique, Par le Dr. de Buck. Gand: A. Siffer. 1890.

Examen Químico y Bacteriológico de las Aguas Potables. Par A. E. Salazar, Y. C. Newman, con un Capítulo del Dr. Rafael Blanchard. Londres: Burns and Oates. 1890.

Saint Raphael with Valescure and Boulourie as a Winter Health Resort. By Howard D. Buss, M.R.C.S. Saint Raphael: V. Chailan. 1890.

Memoires d'Ophtalmométrie. Par E. Javal. Paris: G. Masson. 1891.

Materia Medica. Catechism Series. Part I. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1891.

The Urine in Health and Disease. By H. Aubrey Husband, M.B. Second edition. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1891.

The Daughter, Her Health, Education, and Wedlock. By William M. Capp, M.D. Philadelpia and London: F. A. Davis. 1891.

Hunterian Lectures on Intracranial Inflammations Starting in the Temporal Bone, their Complications, and Treatment. By Arthur E. J. Barker, F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

Cliniques Chirurgicales de l'Hôtel Dieu de Marseilles. Par le Docteur L. Villeneuve. Paris: Felix Alcan. 1891.

La Topographie Cranio-Cérébrale, Applications Chirurgicales. Par René-Léon Le Fort. Paris: Felix Alcan. 1890.

Social Diseases and Worse Remedies. By T. H. Huxley, F.R.S. London: Macmillan and Co. 1891.

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