

## THE CHOLERA-BACILLUS.

SIR,—It would appear to me, from what you write in the JOURNAL of November 1st, on the investigations of Drs. Klein and Gibbes into the cause of cholera, that they are cultivating quite another form of bacteria from that which Koch has demonstrated in Berlin.

You state, "that they have observed that the comma-bacilli found in cases of cholera form spores like other bacilli," while Koch says, on account of their peculiar form of development, he is inclined to consider that the comma-bacillus is not at all a true bacillus, but holds a place between the bacilli and the spirilli; and, again, that we have here to do with a micro-organism which is no true bacillus, but most probably stands nearer to the screw-formed bacteria—the spirilli.

Dr. Koch says, that he has tried in a great number of ways to get the comma-bacillus, which he has found, to produce spores, but in vain; and he states, "I scarcely believe it is possible to do more in that line." He states also that this peculiarity points to its being related to the spirilli, as we know, as yet, of no spore-forming spirilli. It is of no value to tell us that curved bacilli have been found in certain cases; for Koch also has known all along that such bacilli are to be found in cases not suffering from cholera, and he has long ago photographed them. We must also be told their size. Koch says the cholera-bacillus is about half, or at most two-thirds, as long as the tubercle-bacillus, but rounder and thicker, and that the curvature is not generally greater than that of an ordinary punctuation-comma. Then we must be told their life-history, and their behaviour when cultivated artificially, in order to come to any conclusion as to whether they are the same organisms as those which Dr. Koch has discovered and written about.

As to the statement that Dr. Klein had swallowed a pure cultivation of bacilli, I can only hope it is not true, as it lowers him as a scientific observer, and I think justly so, in the opinion of the Germans, as, for many reasons, it can have no weight one way or the other. Such a criticism as that of Professor Lankester's, which appeared lately in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, can only have the effect in Germany of getting English scientific men laughed at; for Dr. Koch himself had long before stated, as I show above, that the organism in question was nearer related to the spirilli than to the bacilli.

Hoping that we shall soon receive full accounts of their investigations from Drs. Klein and Gibbes,—I am, sir, yours respectfully,  
22, Findlingstrasse, Munich. CHARLES WORKMAN, M.D.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF COD-LIVER OIL.

THE cod-liver oil business is flourishing at Marseilles, and competition runs high. A reputed advertisement of one of the manufacturers reads as follows. "The cod, being one of the small fishes of the sea, is constantly tracked and pursued by its enemies, the whales and sharks, etc.; therefore it lives in a constant state of fear, and it is a well established fact that fear engenders in all living creatures jaundice and diseases of the liver. Consequently, all codfish taken in the open sea have diseased livers. But all my fish are caught in a safe harbour, where marine monsters cannot enter. They live there in peace and comfort. Their livers are perfectly healthy, and that is the reason why my cod-liver oil is the best."

## "WANTED A CUPPER."

SIR,—In reply to "Cerebral Congestion," I believe there is still in existence a Monson Hills, who was formerly cupper at Guy's Hospital; his address could no doubt be obtained from his brother, Henry J. Hills, 46, Newcomen Street, Borough, S.E.—Yours, etc., F. G. G.

## PRURITUS OF PREGNANCY.

SIR,—Can any member of the Association tell me of a reliable remedy for pruritus of pregnancy? I think I have tried every one that I have either read or heard of, without any permanent benefit, and my patient is now almost in despair.—I am, yours truly, A MEMBER.

## CINCHONA IN DIPSO MANIA.

MR. JAMES CROCKER (Bingley) writes that the preparation to be used is the fluid extract of cinchona rubra. He has given it, and with some good results. It may be advantageously combined with tincture of capsicum; half a drachm of each, well diluted, being given three or four times a day.

## COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Mr. C. B. Lockwood, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. E. White Wallis, London; Mr. A. Shapter Robinson, Edinburgh; Dr. G. W. Gay, Boston; Mr. Brooks, Ludlow; Dr. C. Workman, Munich; Messrs. Bowman and Sons, Barnsley; Mr. F. Godfrey, Scarborough; Mr. John Moore, Liverpool; Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, London; Mr. H. H. Bridgman, London; Mr. Wm. A. Carte, Dublin; Mr. Henry Wilson, London; Mr. R. J. Godlee, London; Mr. John Gorham, Tonbridge; Mr. H. E. Taylor, Bradford; The Secretary of the Social Science Association; Mr. J. W. Woodruff, London; Dr. Glasier, London; Dr. Langmore, London; Dr. Graham, Perth; Mr. F. W. E. Kinnair, Horsham; Mr. R. A. S. Prosser, Birmingham; Mr. McWardle, Bishop Auckland; Dr. Bowman, Manchester; Mr. R. J. Wilde, Bootle; Mr. T. J. Verral, Brighton; Mr. H. Blake, Great Yarmouth; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. J. C. Karop, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. G. M. Bluett, London; Mr. W. Johnson Smith, Greenwich; Mr. J. Batty Tuke, jun., Montrose; The Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, London; Dr. J. A. Harrison, Haslingden; Mr. John Trotter, London; Dr. J. P. McGeagh, Everton, Liverpool; Dr. R. Neale, London; Mr. H. D. Rowan, Rothwell, Kettering; Mr. R. Booth, London; Mr. R. H. E. Tritton, London; Mr. C. A. Ballance, London; Dr. Elliston, Ipswich; Dr. John Haddoa, Hawick; Dr. Leech, Manchester; The Secretary of the Hospitals Association, London; Dr. Vincent D. Harris, London; Dr. G. Hunter Mackenzie, Edinburgh; Dr. Partridge, Stroud; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. Prosser James, London; Dr. Caldwell, Coleraine; Mr. P. S. Abram, Dublin; Mr. J. W. Morris, Swansea; Mr. H. Saint Maur, London; Mr. Henry Taylor, Guildford; Dr. Danford Thomas, London; Dr. C. J. Renshaw, Ashton-upon-Mersey; Dr. Donald MacAlister, Cambridge; Mr. Wm. Young, London; Dr. Simpson, Edinburgh; the Rev. J. MacNaught,

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\* Notwithstanding the large amount of space devoted to correspondence, we are still in arrears with letters marked for insertion, which we hope next week to redeem.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office United States Army. Vol. V. Flaccus-Hearth. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1884.
- Guy's Hospital Reports. Edited by T. Taylor, M.D., and N. Davies-Colley, M.A. Vol. XLII. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.
- Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh. Vol. III. New Series. Session 1883-4. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1884.
- Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Illinois. Springfield, Illinois: H. W. Rokker. 1883.
- The Vivisector's Directory. Edited by Benjamin Bryan. With a Preface by F. P. Cobbe. London: Victoria Street Society for the Protection of Animals from Vivisection. 1884.
- Elements of Practical Medicine. By A. H. Carter, M.D. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.
- The Sunday Scrap-Book. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell and Co. 1884.
- Origin of Cultivated Plants. By A. de Candolle. London: Kegan Paul and Co. 1884.
- Adventures in Servia Among the Bashi-Bazouks. By Dr. A. Wright. London: W. Swan Sonnenschein and Co. 1884.
- Scientific Papers and Addresses. By G. Rolleston, M.D., F.R.S. Arranged and Edited by W. Turner, M.B., Hon. LL.D., F.R.S. Vols. I. and II. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. London: H. Frowde. 1884.
- Elements of Surgical Diagnosis. By A. P. Gould, M.B., M.S. London: Cassell and Co. (Limited). 1884.
- Healthy Manufacture of Bread. By B. W. Richardson. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1884.
- Aids to Public Health. By J. L. W. Thudichum, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1884.
- Plant-Lore, Legends, and Lyrics. By R. Folkard, Junior. London: Sampson Low and Co. 1884.
- Clinical Lectures on the Practice of Medicine. By the late Robert J. Graves, M.D., F.R.S. Vol. I. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1884.

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