SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Congress on Tuberculosis.

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M. De Brun, of Beyrouth, read an interesting paper on the antagonism existing between paludism (ague or marsh fever) and tuberculosis. In Syria he had never met with tuberculosis among persons suffering from intermittent fever, whereas among the negroes, who were exempt from this affection, tuberculosis was very frequent. M. Plot had observed similar facts in Egypt. M. Arloing had made several experiments with the view of discovering some means of preventing tuberculosis. So far he had failed, but he still did not despair of success. Excision of the glands in relation with the seat of inoculation was ineffectual in arresting the course of the disease. Vaccination with tuberculous and scrofulous virus did not prevent a second inoculation from taking effect. M. Babès demonstrated to the Congress that in children the bacillus of tuberculosis was nearly always associated with other micro-organisms, almost as injurious as "Koch's bacillus." It was necessary to realise the fact that latent cases of tuberculosis, which was extremely common among children under the form of glandular tuberculosis, could assume an acute and serious character under the influence of the associated microbes, which were often undeniably factors in the development of the disease. M. Landouzy read a paper on paternal hereditary tuberculosis, in which he stated that children whose mothers and wet nurses were perfectly healthy and free from any taint of tuberculosis but who succumbed to the disease, might develop tuberculosis. In such cases, which are evidently examples not of tuberculous contamination but of autochthonous tuberculosis inherited from the father, it was a question of infection of the ovum by the spermatozoon. It has been observed that subsequent conception results in the birth of weakly marasmic children, or in repeated miscarriages.

M. Heitz de Villeneuve protested against the custom of feeding phthisical patients on raw meat and blood. He maintained that healthy people would run the risk of contracting tuberculosis and, moreover, such articles of food were not suitable to the digestive organs. M. Arloing, on behalf of M. Gaitier, observed that patients ought not to eat raw meat unless it were mutton or goat's flesh; he added that the only milk free from the taint of tuberculosis was goat's milk. M. Legroux mentioned two cases of tuberculous infection resulting from drinking unboiled milk furnished by tuberculous cows, and urged that strict sanitary measures be taken concerning cow's milk; the sale of ass's and goat's milk should be encouraged. M.M. Cornil and Toupet described a lesion observed in an oyster, which, morphologically, closely resembled that of tuberculosis. These pseudo-tuberculosises were very difficult to detect. It was only by inoculations and cultivation that they could be identified.

During the Congress, several visits were paid by the members to the different Paris laboratories. One of the most interesting was that to the veterinary school at Alfort. The Director, M. Nocard, showed the visitors all the arrangements, and observed that equine tuberculosis, though known to occur, was so rare that some authors denied it, and spoke at length on the pseudo-tuberculous appearance of Guadeloupe oxen, a special micro-organism which had been detected as characteristic of the bovine affection. M. Proust showed the model in Professor M. Hébert's infectious stove, and said that air transport, every steam packet, would be provided with one. For disinfecting rooms in which tuberculous patients had dwelt, M. Proust recommended sending a spray of sublimate solution to the walls. In the Paris hospitals spittons are cleansed by boiling water; the bacilli are surrounded by water at 30°C., which suffices to kill them. The Congress terminated with a banquet at the Hotel Montana, at which M. Monod, the accomplished Director of the Ministerial Department of the Assistance Publique, made an excellent speech, furnishing another proof of his scientific