

Current Literature.

KISIDA, S. **Salt Effects upon the Antigenic Components of V-Form *B. typhosus*, especially on the Action of Calcium Chloride.** *Kitasato Arch. Exper. Med.*, 1941, Feb., v. 18, No. 1, 1-12. [13 refs.]

A Vi-strain of *Bact. typhosum* (Ty2) when grown on agar containing a certain concentration of one or other of a range of neutral salts lost its Vi-agglutinability, its virulence and its power to fix complement in the presence of a Vi antiserum. CaCl_2 proved an exception in that the inclusion of an amount not inhibitory to growth brought about loss of Vi-agglutinability and a decrease in virulence while complement-fixing ability and immunizing value for mice were retained.

Washed organisms from ordinary agar were suspended in salt solutions for twenty days. Whereas in NaCl the Vi-antigen is liberated into the solution, in CaCl_2 , it is said to be retained on the bacterial bodies. A suspension of the latter, containing no living organisms, produced Vi antibodies on injection into rabbits and active immunity in mice against the Ty2 strain. It is suggested that organisms thus treated would make a suitable vaccine for human use.

J. C. CRUICKSHANK.

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Reviews.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE. By J. J. Conybeare, M.C., D.M.Oxon., F.R.C.P. Sixth Edition. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1942. Pp. xx + 1147. Price 28s. net.

In spite of the increase of specialization the average R.A.M.C. officer may be called upon to act as Dermatologist, Venereologist, Psychiatrist or Neurologist, and even Pediatrician, as well as General Physician. In the one easily portable volume of this popular textbook of medicine he will find the necessary up to date information.

The various contributors have obviously written from wide personal experience but for brevity have sometimes stated their own views somewhat dogmatically.

In the preface it is emphasized that the section on Tropical Medicine should not be regarded as a substitute for a textbook on that subject and few would agree with the statement that drugs, other than quinine, used in the treatment of malaria are too toxic for general use as prophylactics or