

DIPHTHERIA.

Important Suggestions as to Its Treatment and Removal of the Causes of the Disease—Isolation of the Sick—The Little Pills Which May Be Placed on Artificial Disinfectants.

The Massachusetts Board of Health has issued the following:

In view of the fact that diphtheria, although now less prevalent than in the colder months, may be expected to visit a portion of our State during the autumn and winter, it seems important that more thorough attempts to control the disease should be made by the local authorities.

In the first place, as diphtheria is a contagious disease, and under certain circumstances not entirely known, very highly so, it is important that all practicable means should be taken to separate the sick from the well. As it is also infectious, woollen clothes, carpets, hangings, etc., should be avoided in the sick-room, and only such materials used as can be readily washed.

All clothes, when removed from the patient, should at once be placed in hot water. Pocket handkerchiefs should be laid aside, and in their stead soft pieces of linen or cotton cloth should be used, and at once burned.

Disinfectants should always be placed in the vessel containing the expectoration, and may be used somewhat freely in the sick-room; those being especially useful which destroy bad odors without causing others (nitrate of lead, chloride of zinc, etc.). In schools there should be especial supervision, as the disease is often so mild in its early stages as not to attract common attention; and no child should be allowed to attend school from an affected house until allowed to do so by a competent physician.

In the case of young children all reasonable care should be used to prevent undue exposure to the cold.

Pure water for drinking should be used, avoiding contaminating sources of supply; ventilation should be insisted on, and local drainage must be carefully attended to. In country towns privies and cess-pools should be frequently emptied and disinfected; slop-water should not be allowed to soak into the surface of the earth near the dwelling-houses, and the cellars should be kept dry and sweet.

In all cities, especially in tidal districts, basins, baths, etc., as now connected with drains, should never communicate directly with sleeping rooms.

In all cases of diphtheria, fully as great care should be taken in disinfecting the sick-room, after use, as in scarlet fever.

After a death from diphtheria the clothing disused should be burned or exposed to nearly or quite a heat of boiling water; the body should be placed as early as practicable in the coffin, with disinfectants, and the coffin should be tightly closed.

Children, at least, and better adults also, in most cases, should not attend a funeral from a house from which a death from diphtheria has occurred. But with suitable precautions it is not necessary that the funeral should be private, provided the corpse be not in any way exposed.

Although it is not at present possible to remove at once all sources of epidemic disease, yet the frequent visitation of such disease, and especially its continued prevalence, may be taken as sufficient evidence of insanitary surroundings and of sources of sickness to a certain extent preventable.

It should be distinctly understood that no amount of artificial "disinfection" can ever take the place of pure air, good water and proper drainage, which cannot be gained without prompt and efficient removal of all filth, whether from slaughter houses, etc., public buildings, crowded tenements or private residences.

Pigeons as Doctors' Assistants.

A physician of Erie, Pa., is training homing pigeons for use in his practice. Some of his young birds, put upon the road to make records for distance, have made very good time, namely, fifty miles in ninety minutes and sixty-six miles in eighty-two minutes. Homing pigeons are largely used by country physicians both here and abroad. One doctor in Hamilton County, N. Y., uses them constantly in his practice, extending over nearly two townships, and considers them an almost invaluable aid. After visiting a patient he sends the necessary prescription to his dispensary by pigeon; also any other advice or instruction the case or situation may demand. He frequently also leaves pigeons at places from which he wishes reports of progress to be dispatched at specified times, or at certain crises. He says he is enabled to attend to a third more business at least through the time saved to him by the use of pigeons. In critical cases he is able to keep posted by hourly bulletins from the bedside between daylight and nightfall, and he can recall case after case where lives have been saved that must have been lost if he had been obliged to depend upon ordinary means of conveying information.

A Marvellous Exhibition.

The sun's disc now presents a marvellous spectacle. An immense number of spots are visible, consisting mainly of two widely-extended groups. One spot, now slowly disappearing by the sun's rotation, is of enormous dimensions and nearly round. The nucleus is intensely black, while about it stretches a broad and well-defined penumbra. A great group following this spot is badly broken up, indicating that the solar storm producing it was quite recent. The tendency of ragged and shattered groups of spots is to coalesce and form circular or oval spots. A storm region that produces spots usually indicates its locality by faculae or white ridges, a group of minute black holes subsequently appearing. In case the storm is very violent, great rents may be seen at once in the sun's photosphere, which run together as the tempest progresses. In a brief space of time changes occur which require motion of inconceivable velocity. The sun promises to be an object of deep interest during the winter.

The ex-Confederate General Jubal Early looks like the ideal Rip Van Winkle, with his grey beard and flowing white hair, his drooping shoulders, and the staff on which he leans.

His Highness Rampal Singh, Rajah of Rampur, now resident in England, intends contesting one of the metropolitan boroughs at the next vacancy on "independent and constitutional principles."

A TRYING AGE.

Hobbledehey Boys and Lackadaisical Girls.

Young people who are passing from childhood into young man or womanhood grow with surprising rapidity, and the amount of awkwardness, of conceit, of shiftlessness and irresponsibility they develop is astonishing to those who do not know its cause. They can play, they can eat, they can sleep, and do nothing with wonderful ease and facility; and they know—what do they know? they know everything. They know more at this period than at any previous or subsequent period of their lives. They are ready to take charge of themselves, of their parents, of society, while at the same time they cannot be depended on for the most trivial things. This is not true of all children at this age, but it applies to the majority, and there are few parents of grown children who will not recognize the truth of the picture. It is necessary at this intermediate stage of existence to exercise the greatest forbearance toward these troublesome young creatures. They should be given only light and easy tasks, and their shortcomings ignored or forgiven with patience and hope. The age we speak of is the sentimental age. Girls at this period love sensational novels, they are "crazy" about sweethearts, and inclined to be lackadaisical generally. They have headaches, listlessness, dreaminess. Boys are "crazy" to go to sea or go out West and shoot buffaloes; they affect a tall hat and carry a cane. They are especially arrogant and supercilious toward all small boys, and think it manly to smoke a cigar. In a few years all this fermentation ceases, and the young woman becomes rational, sensible, willing to be advised, and willing to apply herself to work and be responsible for its well doing; the young man does what he ought to without being told, and takes intelligent views of life and duty. He settles down to hard work cheerfully and patiently. The sophomore age is passed, and hope takes the place of patience in the minds of parent and teacher. In tiding youth over this dangerous transitional period of their lives, parents, teachers and guardians must carefully combine firmness with tenderness, and above all have plenty of hope and patience.

The Fresh Air Habit.

Early impressions are very enduring, and can make useful habits as well as evil ones a sort of second nature. In order to forestall the chief danger of in-door life, make your children love-sick after fresh air; make them associate the idea of dusty rooms with prison life, punishment and sickness. Open a window whenever they complain of headache or nausea; promise them a woodland excursion as a reward of exceptionally good behavior. Save your best sweetmeats for out-door festivals. By the wistfulness of associated ideas a boy can come to regard the lonely shade tree as a primary requisite to the enjoyment of a good story book. "Or, mes pensees ne veulent jamais aller qu'avec mes jambées," says Rousseau ("Only the movement of my feet seems to set my brains a-going"), and it is just as easy to think, debate, rehearse, etc., walking as sitting; the peripatetic philosophers derived their name from their pedestrian proclivities, and the Stoic seat from their master's predilection for an open porch. Children who have been brought up in hygienic homes not rarely "feel as if they were going to be choked" in unventilated rooms, and I would take good care not to cure them of such salutary idiosyncrasies. Every observant teacher must have noticed the innate hardness of young boys, their unaffected indifference to wind and weather. They seem to take a delight in braving the extremes of temperature, and, by simply indulging this penchant of theirs, children can be made weather-proof to an almost unlimited degree; and in nothing else can they be more safely trusted to the guidance of their protective instincts. Don't be afraid that an active boy will hurt himself by voluntary exposure, unless his chances for outdoor play are so rare as to tempt him to abuse the first opportunity. Weather-proof people are almost sickness-proof; a merry hunting-excursion to the snow-clad highlands will rarely fail to counteract the consequences of repeated surfeits; even girls who have learned to brave the winter storms of our Northwestern prairies will afterward laugh at "draughts" and "raw March winds."—Dr. Felix L. Oswald, in "Popular Science Monthly."

A Paradise for Sportsmen.

A correspondent writing from Fort McLeod, N. W. T., says the Rocky Mountains in this latitude do not hold any true glaciers such as cause the milky opacity of some of the rivers flowing from those further to the north, and the innumerable small streams which course eastward are therefore clear and blue, deriving their supply from the melting snowfields of the higher peaks throughout the summer. They are filled with fine trout which are as yet so unsophisticated that the art of the scientific angler is thrown away on them. A few days ago one of my party caught in the middle fork of the Oldham over fifty pounds of fish in a couple of hours with a common strong hook and line baited with a piece of bacon.

The Siamese nation has recently been plunged into mourning by the death of the court and body elephant of the King. One morning, after a hearty breakfast, he went mad quite unexpectedly, and trampled five of his attendants to death. To shoot him would have been sacrilege. An attempt to tranquilize his perturbed spirit by encircling him with a huge ring of holy bamboo, specially blessed by the High Priest of his own particular temple, proved worse than ineffectual, for he broke through the ring and all but terminated the High Priest's career upon the spot. He was then with great difficulty driven into a close court of the palace, where, after several furious endeavors to batter down the walls with his tusks, he suddenly toppled over on his side, uttered a last cry of rage, and gave up the ghost. Naturally enough, this heavy calamity was attributed to criminal carelessness on the part of one or other of the attendants entrusted with the sacred elephant's feeding. The King, therefore, interrogated the members of the elephant's household in person, and, failing to elicit any individual confession of delinquency, decreed that they should all be punished.

"DO IT YOURSELF."

A Hint to Young Women Whose Hands are Idle.

(From the London Queen.)

It is wonderful how much may be done at home by willing hands and clever brains. The present style of furniture offers plenty of scope for amateur taste and work. Still it is not given to every one to start with a new house and the power of buying new furniture. Many people, willing and anxious to have bright, dainty surroundings (by the way, brightness is hardly the great characteristic of the present taste), cannot afford to dismiss the solid, ungainly old furniture that came to them with the house, and is far too good to get rid of, and yet too utterly out of date to be saleable at anything like a fair price. The famous "drawing-room suite," covered in rep or broche of some, to modern taste, excruciating shade of green or magenta, which was once all but universal, is fast dying out. Enough specimens still remain to harass unlucky owners, who are gradually awaking to a taste for less decided colors. The things are good, nay, even handsome of their kind; but, oh! that covering, which no amount of sun—to be got in our climate, at all events—can apparently fade to any less trying shade. Your walls, fresh papered or painted, may be perfect. Fash has stretched a point, and allowed the Brussels drawing-room carpet, with its astonishing bouquets, to be superseded by Persian or Indian rugs and stained floor; but you know quite well it is hopeless to think of that furniture. Few good upholsterers care to be at the bother of re-covering old furniture, unless antique enough to be a curiosity. They frankly tell you it will cost almost as much as new, and certainly make good their words. What then can be done? The answer is simple. Do it yourself. It may sound alarming to speak of re-covering with your own hands those chairs, sofas, etc.; but, honestly, the sound is the worst of it. Begin at first modestly with a separate chair and try your hand at covering it with some cheap material, so that even if you fail, the result will not be disastrous. Proceed as follows: Over the cushion of your chair pin a piece of thin, tough paper and cut out an exact pattern, carefully marking all the plaits and little nicks required to make the cover lie smooth and even—the great secret in this work. Lay this pattern on your material and cut the latter out exactly by it, marking all the required plaits and nicks. Then strip off carefully the gimp binding from the chair you intend operating on, brush the cushion thoroughly and remove any stain with benzine, or you may chance to see your old enemy reappear through the new cover, taking care to get it to sit quite evenly everywhere before fastening it. This done, nail it on carefully with tiny furniture tacks made for the purpose, and finish it all off with a gimp or a band of the same material, stretched firmly all around to hide the rough edges.

Saturday Evening Mosaics.

Reason convinces, but faith consoles. No man is more miserable than he that hath no adversary.

Strong language utterly fails to bolster a weak argument.

He who is perfectly vanquished by riches can never be just.

It is the enemy whom we do not suspect who is the most dangerous.

Half the ills we hoard in our hearts are ills because we hoard them.

An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.

Labor is the divine law of our existence; repose is desertion and suicide.

One half of the world must sweat and groan that the other half may dream.

The qualities we possess never make us so ridiculous as those we pretend to have.

With misconduct and economy one can always get on in the world.

Calumny is what is said of us—carelessness what is said by us.

"Cowardly as an honest man" would be a good proverb.

Common sense is one's own sense, believed to be uncommon.

One needs a deal of wit to afford to be witty not at the expense of the heart.

Genius finds new ideas, wit ridicules them and common sense adopts them.

We do good most willingly to those who have least claim upon us.

Beware of that reason which always seems reasonable!

A friend of one's own age keeps his youth long.

One is rarely philosophical with one's self-philosophy in a court-habit.

A friend gives when he has too much; a woman, even when she has not enough.

A woman's beauty is not a source of as much satisfaction to her as another woman's ugliness.

When it is a question of our vices how all men seem human! But when of our virtues—!

In friendship the strongest attachment yields to resistance; in love it is the contrary.

Nature is rich in her very poverties—she dowers fools with presumption to insure the preservation of the race.

Promising is sometimes a reason for not giving—the promise may have produced its effect.

Devotion to friends is meted less by the esteem we have for them than the fuss they make over us. Whence comes it that we are so often deceived?

Women's Head Decorations.

Among the countless varieties of birds which are brought from every point of the globe to adorn the hats and bonnets of the daughters of fashion none are more beautiful than the smaller tropical birds which come from the West India Islands. One large box exhibited, which came from Trinidad, contained no less than twenty different specimens; some with bodies of golden yellow and wings of bright green, others of gold and brown, and a few almost entirely covered with scarlet feathers with deep orange-tipped wings. Two very handsome birds were covered with a mixture of brilliant colored feathers, like fine mosaics, and one larger bird, already placed upon a "half-mourning" hat, had a body and wings of raven black, with breast and head of purest white.

The Turtle Mountain election for the Provincial Legislature resulted in the return of Mr. J. P. Alexander, not Mr. Waugh, as reported by telegraph.

A MISSING GIRL.

Her Ambition Frustrated—A Saddening Letter and a Fruitless Search.

The young woman Edith Louise Marsh, of Stamford, who has been missed since Friday night, has not yet been found. Her father has been walking around the police office waiting to hear of her, and lacking the degree of sagacity necessary to search very effectively. This morning Mr. Marsh came again to the police office, bringing with him the following letter, which he found in the drawer of the sewing machine where Edith had left it before her departure:

Mother, father, farewell! I can get no work and for very shame I would not tell you so because it was my fault I came here. I ought to have followed your advice. Oh, my heart is breaking, my darling little Fred; kiss him for me. I will come back again if I live. Dear father, dear mother, dear sister and brother, Good By.

Edith was the oldest of eight children, and the Freddy referred to was the baby, 18 months old. She had never been from home except at service in the neighborhood of her father's house. She was not a forward or wayward girl, but, in all respects, of proper conduct and correct life. These facts intensify the mystery, and make the case still more sad. She was large of age, 16, dark complexion, dark hair, full habit and intelligent. She was, however, ambitious to earn a livelihood for herself, and the mistake was in purchasing for her a sewing machine and sending her to Thorold to engage in a business without funds, without experience or skill. It was the act of a foolish parent, and the atonement promises to be bitter indeed. After the notice the absence of the girl received in the papers, a Mr. Bligh called at the police office and stated that Miss Marsh rode down from Thorold with him, carrying a parcel with her. The father and the Chief of Police this morning visited several houses of doubtful repute in pursuance of the search, but with what effect we have not learned.—St. Catharines News of Tuesday.

A Mother's Sorry Temptation.

Mrs. Caroline Cuthbert, aged 25, was charged with having stolen a seal-skin saque worth \$200 from Mrs. A. B. Ketchum, of No. 152 Hayward street, Brooklyn. She has four children, the youngest a baby. She said she was in a good social position when she was married, and her husband had a fortune. They lived in luxury, and took but little heed of their expenditures. Finally they found themselves close to poverty. Their means steadily grew less, until she was threatened with extreme want. Her husband did not give her anything for her support. She tried to keep the family by giving music lessons, but she could not get enough pupils to support her children. Early this week she called at one house, where, having failed to secure a pupil, she asked for any cast off clothing that the lady had. Just then Mrs. Ketchum called, and learning of her distress, told her that if she would call at her house the next day she would give her a bundle of clothes. She called, and told her mission to the servant, who handed her a bundle, which she took away. When she reached her home she found that the package contained a seal-skin saque. She said that she thought there had been a mistake made, and was about to return it, when she was moved by the pitiful condition of her children to take the saque to a pawnshop, where she obtained a loan of \$30. Mrs. Ketchum said that the woman's story was true as to the arrangement that she should receive a bundle of clothes, and under the circumstances she refused to prosecute her. Mrs. Cuthbert, by advice, entered a plea of guilty, and Justice Fisher suspended sentence. The seal-skin saque, which Mrs. Ketchum recovered, had been wrapped up to be delivered to a furrier's messenger.—New York Star.

Temptations of the Toilet.

Who is the daring woman who will buy and wear the bonnet display in the window of a well-known Broadway shop? The untrained eye sees at first only some leaves. A near view shows a conception worthy of Mephistopheles. It is a velvet bonnet representing pond-lily leaves with stems and veins of silk of a light color. Around the crown coils a snake cunningly made of dark green plush, and in its loathsome head glitter the most brilliant eyes. In another store the sensation of the hour is an imported English aesthetic gown. It is so indefinable in its outlines that it could be worn equally well by the mother of the Gracchi or the rosebud debutante of to-day. The voluminous folds of the flowing skirt, the large, loose sleeve, the square antique neck, and the waist undefined, not even by a girdle, takes one back to old times with a rush. The skirt has hand-embroidered lilies above the hem. Ribbons float rom under the drapery where the waist is supposed to be. It is to be hoped that the good taste of the American woman will prevent her trying to unite the fashions of past and present centuries.—Exchange.

Arctic Phenomena.

A remarkable echo was noticed between two mountains at Plover Bay; another, noticed by our sledge party in a cliff at Cape Onnman, Siberia, gives back more than a dozen echoes; and Baron Wrangell relates that a pistol fired near some cliffs on the River Lena is echoed a hundred times. The great distance to which small sounds are sometimes transmitted is also worthy of record. The first time this acoustic clearness of the atmosphere came under observation was at St. Michael's, where a conversation carried on at an incredible distance could be distinctly heard. Amid the grim silence and desolation of Wrangell Land, at a time too, when the air was acoustically opaque for this latitude, I distinctly heard our boatswain, a small man with a squeaky voice, giving orders two miles away, while laughter and sounds of the voice when any one spoke above the ordinary tone were heard with such amazing distinctness as to suggest telephonic communication.—Correspondence New York Herald.

Queen Margherita of Italy is well acquainted with American literature, Hawthorne being her favorite romancer and Longfellow her poet. She thinks of urging her husband to send their son, the young Prince of Naples, to America some day to study the people and institutions.

It is understood that Cyrus Field paid \$175,000 for the New York Express.

ADVERTISING EXTRAORDINARY.

A New Yorker who Distributed Bills on Stilts.

A Brooklyn policeman has made an arrest under novel circumstances. The proprietor of a museum sent out a man who walked on very high stilts to distribute bills. The unusual spectacle caused a horse to run away, and the policeman decided to arrest the stilt walker. "Come down," said the policeman, "I want to arrest you." "No," said the gymnast, "come up and arrest me," and he coolly seated himself on the roof of a two-story building. The policeman caused him to capitulate by threatening to saw off the stilts in instalments till the wearer reached the ground. The justice, however, refused to convict, as he held that in the disgraceful condition of the streets it was not only justifiable but commendable for men to go about on stilts.

In France a pearl costing \$16 is now imitated for 50 cents or a dollar, and so successfully as to be sold at the price of the genuine article to any one not a veritable expert, and even the latter class are often puzzled. The artificial pearl, however, is simply a glass bead or globe which is first coated on the inside with a glue made of parchment, then treated with a peculiar so-called "essence," after which it is filled with wax. The essence is the chief pearly ingredient, and is obtained by rubbing together white fish, so as to remove the scales; the whole is then strained through linen and left to deposit its sediment, which is the essence in question. It requires about 17,000 fish to produce a pound of the pearly essence.

The publication of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's poems has attracted much attention in literary circles in London. Most of the works had been interred in his wife's tomb. Rossetti was persuaded by a friend to have them taken from the grave and published, though he had said that the public should never see another edition of his works, because it could not appreciate them. There has been an enormous demand for the poems. Fifty copies of both volumes were sold in half an hour at one shop.

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