

tible to the disease, a test of the older children usually shows that the same immunity has been conferred upon them; whereas if the older children give positive tests the younger ones are very apt to do likewise.

Two other points are of interest in this connection: One is that a positive reaction when it develops usually comes on in twenty-four hours, and the part is not only red, or hyperemic, but slightly indurated. This condition increases in these characteristics for twenty-four hours more, continues for a week or ten days, and undergoes a gradual involution and leaves behind a brownish discoloration of the skin with some scaliness which may not disappear for twenty-one days from the time of the infection. Occasionally patients present a so-called pseudoreaction, the condition apparently being due to hypersensitiveness of the skin rather than to any susceptibility to diphtheria.

Lastly, this test has proved of interest in that it has thrown some light upon the period of life at which human beings are most susceptible to diphtheria. Various statistics seems to indicate that this period is between the first and sixth year. Some years ago the writer of this editorial published a chart based on 3,360 cases collected from various sources which showed that the greatest incidence of diphtheria was between two and five years, and the Schick test applied to many hundred children indicates also that this is the period when a positive reaction most commonly develops.

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