

ing with croup associated with streptococci is received.

Finally, the treatment must be begun as early as possible. In this way, and by the employment of cubage, it will be possible to allow tracheotomy to become a rare procedure. In conclusion, it may be mentioned that in the serum therapy every kind of local treatment was excluded, and only irrigation of the throat with boiled water practised.

[This article has been taken complete, because of the importance of the subject.—Ed.]—*From A. M.—S.B.*

THE PREVENTION OF DIPHTHERIA.

The following, furnished for publication by the New York Health Department, we reprint for our readers, because of the valuable information, gained by practical experience, it suggests as to common modes of the mysterious(?) spread of infectious diseases.

The attention of the Board of Health is directed to the necessity for the adoption of some more adequate means to prevent the extension of contagious diseases in tenement houses and apartment houses, and particularly for the enforcement of isolation of persons sick with these diseases. The methods which have been long employed in the Health Department, *i.e.*, frequent visitation and instruction by Department Inspectors, have been found to be only partially effective. It has been the custom for years, in cases of contagious diseases, for the Inspectors of the Department to visit the families

of the sick persons, inform them as to measures of disinfection and methods of isolation, and at the same time to notify other families in the house of the existence of a case of contagious disease in a given apartment. This method of giving publicity to the case and of warning other occupants of the house is ineffective in the accomplishment of the desired end, *i.e.*, the complete isolation of the patient and the prevention of further infection. Notifying all the inmates of a large tenement is a very difficult matter, and, if notified, experience has shown that they soon forget the existence of illness in the house. Repeated inquiries have demonstrated the fact that frequently many of the inmates of the house where there is a case of contagious disease do not know of the existence of any sickness.

Further than this, this method fails entirely to protect strangers or visitors who may go to the house or apartment. Ladies in search of servants have been repeatedly found in houses or in apartments where cases of contagious disease were present, and servants who have been living with families where there are cases of contagious disease, on obtaining situations frequently go to their employer's house carrying infection with them; or, when relieved from duty for an afternoon or evening, visit where there are cases of contagious disease, and not infrequently carry infection back to the houses in which they are employed. Very commonly washing or various kinds of sewing is secretly done by other members of the family in apartments where such cases are ill, and the garments thus infected on the premises are later