

bands were greatly swollen. He was given another inhalation of ipecacuanha wine, four drachms being used this time, and at once, as on the previous occasion, his voice became clearer. The next day he came again, and after another inhalation a still further improvement was noticed. He was given no medicine with the exception of a purgative pill. On the 11th he had his third inhalation, four drachms again, and on leaving he declared that his voice was nearly restored. He took great pains to inhale thoroughly, and probably much of the ipecacuanha was absorbed. The next day he was still better, but reported that the spray had made him sick. He had another inhalation and did not return till the 22nd, when he came to say that he was perfectly well, and needed no further treatment. The vocal cords were examined and found to be healthy. He was discharged cured after five inhalations.

VI. In the next case hoarseness depending on congestion and ulceration of the chords was relieved by a course of the ipecacuanha spray:—

Emma V., æt. 30, single, a children's nurse, came under observation on December 4th. She stated that she had had a cough every winter since she was a girl at school. It troubled her most at night, and frequently disturbed her rest. It usually came on in fits, and she could obtain no relief until she had expectorated a quantity of thick phlegm. She had been more or less short of breath for three years, and had often experienced considerable difficulty in getting upstairs. There was a little loss of flesh in the winter but nothing very much. She had never had sweating at night, and there was no family history of phthisis. Her geneal symptoms troubled her very little, but she was much alarmed at losing her voice a fortnight ago. She speaks now in a guttural tone and evidently with considerable discomfort and distress. She attributes her symptoms partly to having to get out of bed at night to attend to the children, and partly to the fact that she has to sing to them, and also in a choir. On examining her chest she was found to have a little moist rhonchus at both bases. On laryngoscopic examination it was found that there was ulceration of the right chord, with congestion of both. She was given an inhalation of ipecacuanha wine, by means of the steam inhaler, and an important improvement in the voice was at once apparent. The improvement, however, was only temporary, and the next day she was as bad as ever. She had eleven inhalations before there was any improvement. Sometimes she had the spray from a Richardson's apparatus and sometimes from the Siegle's, but she preferred the latter. She was kept under treatment until December 29th, by which time her voice was perfectly clear and all her symptoms had disappeared. At her last visit the chest was examined and was found to be free from rhonchus, whilst the laryng-

oscope showed that the ulceration of the vocal chord had disappeared.

Remarks.—Most successful results are obtained from the employment of the ipecacuanha spray in cases of chronic bronchitis and bronchial catarrh. In fibroid phthisis there is often a marked improvement, even when no constitutional treatment is adopted. A single inhalation will sometimes restore the voice in case of hoarseness due to congestion of the vocal chords. It is a matter of little importance whether the spray be given with a handball spray apparatus or with a small steam vaporiser. In either case the spray must be warm and the patient should not go out for some minutes after inhaling. Care should be taken to see that the spray really enters the chest and is not stopped by the arching of the tongue against the wall of the mouth. The best results are obtained by using the spray for about ten minutes three or four times a day. In the majority of cases of winter cough relief will be obtained in ten days.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

THE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA AT THE PHILADELPHIA LYING-IN-CHARITY—WITH REMARKS.

The treatment is based upon the principle that puerperal septicæmia is caused by the entrance into the system of an infectious material through lesions in the genital passages. This infectious material is believed to be certain micro-organisms, which produce their effects either directly by their action on the fluids and tissues of the body, or indirectly through certain products of their activity, called ptomaines, or both.

The prime object of local treatment in puerperal septicæmia is to render and maintain the uterovaginal canal in an aseptic condition. It must be recognized, however, that when once the germs are within the tissues or vessels of the puerpera, they are beyond the influence of local medication. Hence the result to be hoped from local antiseptics is, that it will limit the dose of poison to that which has been absorbed before treatment was instituted. The tissues and white blood cells must be left to battle with those germs which are already within the tissues, assisted by constitutional medication. Therefore the results from local treatment are most brilliant in cases of putrid infection, where the fever is due rather to the absorption of the products of decomposition of the lochia, or of fragments of retained placenta or membranes, than to the action of germs on the tissues of the patient.

Other objects to be gained by local treatment are to favor the healing of wounds, and promote the comfort of the patient.

Neither septic abscesses of the pelvic cellular tissue nor pyæmic abscesses have developed in the Charity's cases (within three years), nor has phleg-