

negative results. The throat was so irritable that a posterior rhinoscopic examination was found impossible. I then thoroughly applied a 2% solution of cocaine, causing great retraction of the tissues in a few minutes, relieving the pharyngeal hyperæsthesia, permitting both anterior and posterior rhinoscopic examinations to be made with facility. Nothing could be seen of the pin, however, although the cavity was flooded with light by means of a small electric lamp, introduced into one nostril, also by the usual method of head-mirror and Argand burner.

The various parts were probed with the same result, and I was about to cease my efforts, thinking the pin had escaped. The sensation remaining, as is frequently the case, Mrs. A., however, was positive it had not done so, therefore I took a delicate probe and searched once more, with better success this time, for finally in the upper part of the nasal passages, almost in a line with the superior meatus, and quite out of view, my probe touched something which gave a metallic sensation, whereupon I introduced a delicate pair of forceps, and after one or two unsuccessful efforts, grasped the body and attempted to dislodge it; failing however, the forceps slipping and the parts becoming obscured by the blood which was dripping freely. A stronger pair of forceps next being used, I moved the body backwards and forwards, and finally after a hard effort, had the satisfaction of seeing the pin come into view, emerging from the mucous membrane where it had been imbedded for more than half its length with the point directed forward, which explained the difficulty of dislodging it, it having probably been forced in by the convulsive act of sneezing.

The peculiar points of the case were the almost inaccessible position of the pin, and the fact of its being buried beneath the mucous membrane for over half its length. After removal the parts were cleansed with a warm solution of Seiler's formula, and protected from the atmosphere by a spray of eucalyptol and benzonal, the patient experiencing no further discomfort.

LUMBAGO.—Dr. Lyman Watkins says (*Med Gleaner*) that ten drops of the tincture of gelsemium every four hours will almost invariably relieve that painful condition, or backache commonly called lumbago.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I was much pleased with your remarks upon diphtheria in your Sept. issue. I remember some twelve years ago an article being read upon this subject before a medical society, when eleven of the thirteen members present, all engaged in active practice, declared as their conviction that the membrane of diphtheria bore the same relation to the disease as the eruption upon the skin to scarlatina.

The deductions of Trousseau, more than sixty years ago, made by the light of classical research alone, are thus confirmed by the most advanced scientific investigation of to-day, and should be read with care by every physician called upon to deal with this fatal scourge.

When the profession wake up to the fact, that diphtheria is "*without doubt a local disease*," (the italics are yours,) and is to be met in its primary stage, by the prompt and frequent application of antiseptics and detergents, a new era will have dawned upon the treatment of this dreaded malady.

Yours truly,

Toronto, Oct., 1891.

W. SLOAN.

BARRIE, 9th Nov., 1891.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly permit me to write to you as connected with the LANCET, and having the chair of Materia Medica, at Trin. Med. College, to call your attention to the compressed triturates containing tincture of aconite from the States. Accidentally I discovered that the *U.S.P.* tinct. aconite was about three times the strength of the *B.P.* I have spoken to medical men who were using them and did not know this, and supposed they were of the *B.P.* strength, thereby giving three times more than they supposed. Also, the druggists I spoke to were ignorant of the fact. You will see how dangerous this is in Canada, where we use the *B.P.* strength; also in England, where some of those preparations are imported.

I am, sincerely yours,

A. ARDAGH.

[We are glad to have the attention of the public called to the above. We thought the difference