

ing on treatment. Its advantages are several. It means to the parents that you have a true appreciation of the disease and that you wish them also to have the same. It further means that it will be necessary that one member of the household is to devote himself or herself entirely to the patient. It makes it quite possible to have every article of furnishing, except a cot, stand, and chair removed from the sick room, and it further enables you to ventilate the room to a degree that would be uncomfortable to other children not in bed. In every case the patient ought to be put in bed and kept there, both for safety and convenience of treatment. And finally, while it makes it practicable to use constantly disinfectants in the sick-room which might be unnecessarily disagreeable to the rest of the household, it will be convenient for the nurse, if forced to leave the room for rest, or other absolutely necessary duties, to disinfect hands and face, and leave her cap and overall cotton garments, emerging comparatively harmless to the other members of the household. Incidentally here it ought to be mentioned, that the moment the patient's needs are attended to, a thorough sanitary inspection of the whole premises ought to be instituted, not more for protection of the healthy than for a favorable progress of the patient. This being done, my usual practice is as follows:—

Prescribe,

℞ Fl Ext. Jaborandi ʒss.  
Tinct. Aconiti ʒss.

Fiat mist.

Sig., 12 drops in twelve teaspoonfuls of water, one teaspoonful every half hour, for two hours, and according to age every hour or half hour for two hours more. Then stop for four hours, and repeat if necessary.

Et. ℞ Tinct. Ferri per chlor. ʒiv.  
Potassæ Chloratis ʒi.  
Lig. Arsenicalis m. xx.  
Glycerinæ ʒss.  
Aquam add ʒiv.

Fiat mist.

Sig., ʒi. in water every three hours, after the stomach has become settled.

Et. ℞ Acidi. Carbolic (fort.) ʒviii.

Et. ℞ Spts. Terebinthinæ ʒviii.

Sig., To be used as directed, *i.e.*, by adding to a pint of water in a shallow pan ʒi. of carbolic acid and ʒii. of turpentine as often as required.

I have for some time been in the habit of placing such pan on the top of a small coal-oil stove, placed close to the bedside on the window side of the room if possible, while a triangular-shaped tent is arranged, with a sheet and a few tacks, over the stove and child. By such an arrangement, the temperature of the air about the child can be readily kept at about 75° F., while the window may be drawn down a number of inches for the entrance of an abundance of fresh air, which not only is prevented from blowing upon the patient, but with the warm air under the tent also creates a current, the moist medicated vapor always moving over the patient.

Finally to this list I add:

℞ Acidi Lactici ʒiv.  
Glycerinæ ʒiv.  
Aquam ad. ʒii.

Fiat mist.

Sig., To be applied with large cotton swab to the membrane every three hours.

Such, then, are the medicaments with which I have been in the habit of beginning the treatment of diphtheria, and which, with a wholly milk diet from the outset supplemented by the use early in the sickness, according to the strength of the pulse, of the best seven-year-old whiskey, have been almost invariably continued throughout the disease without any great or necessary change. It is quite apparent that, to get these various pieces of artillery brought to bear with effect upon the enemy, it requires some little time and trouble; but there is not one of them which I think it advisable to dispense with, or which, in any case omitted or neglected, has not made the neglect or omission sensibly felt in later trouble and anxiety.

Should anyone deem these details unnecessary, my own defence must be results, and the words of Dr. J. Rose Cornack, which exactly state the case. Referring to the treatment of diphtheria, his first words are, "Few diseases more severely tax the ingenuity and therapeutic resources of the physician than diphtheria. He has to devise and carry out innumerable little details—hygienic, dietetic, and medicinal—which do not admit of minute description, and yet upon the minutiae of which success or failure frequently depends."

It will now be proper for us to retrace our steps and briefly examine the reasons for a line of treatment similar to the one just outlined.