

CHAPTER XXIII.

SPASMODIC LARYNGITIS.

SPASMODIC LARYNGITIS.—This is also called spasmodic croup. It takes an intermediate place between idiopathic croup and laryngismus stridulus. It is a catarrhal laryngitis associated with spasm of the glottis, and almost exclusively affects children. The child goes to bed in good health, or perhaps with a cold in the head or a slight hoarseness. During the night the croup-cough is heard, hard, metallic and barking. This may be repeated, and with it a certain amount of stridor. This is the single symptom. The child is apparently well in the morning. These attacks may occur for several nights and then disappear.

Very simple treatment is necessary. A drink of hot milk may give relief. Small doses of paregoric and ipecac will help the cough and relieve the spasm.

LARYNGISMUS STRIDULUS.—This is also commonly called spasm of the glottis. It is a spasmodic closure of the glottis due to tonic spasm of the adductor muscles of the larynx. It is strictly a neurosis and may have a central or a peripheral origin. It may be a local convulsive attack. It is an affection of young children, but is sometimes seen in adults. Dentition is a cause, and digestive derangement is often present. It may be due to a foreign body or