

I have had five cases of what I take to be purely nasal diphtheria. Four occurred in one family. In none of these cases was there any pharyngeal trouble at all. No membrane could be seen in the nose, but all these cases had for forty-eight hours a temperature of 102.5° to 104° , with an offensive purulent discharge from the anterior nares and frequent hemorrhages from the nose, recurring five or six times in the twenty-four hours, and moderate enlargement of the cervical glands. They are all recovering, and so far there have been no complications in any of them.

Another interesting group of cases which in my hands have invariably proved fatal, with one solitary exception. The group includes seven cases, and a description of one is a description of them all.

A child has pharyngeal and nasal diphtheria and recovers. The throat is clean, temperature and pulse normal. The mother at the next visit tells you the child has vomited; you examine, and find temperature normal, but the pulse, which was yesterday 80, is 100; the next day 120 and weaker, and the heart gets weaker and faster in spite of absolute and enforced rest in the horizontal position and the use of cardiac tonics, until death takes place from cardiac failure.

Is the pathology of the failure of this heart muscle the same as in paralysis of the palate muscles and of the skeletal muscles? And only more disastrous in its results, because life must cease as soon as that muscle ceases to perform its functions. I take it that every one present is familiar with the literature of diphtheritic paralysis, and I hope some get more satisfaction from the discordant statements of various writers on that subject than I have been able to do.

Thus Buhl, Charcot and Vulpian are unanimous about an affection of the peripheric nerves and muscles. Oertel, Dejerine and Gaucher believe in a disease of the spinal cord. Leyden describes a gray degeneration of the muscular tissue, which he believes to be truly inflammatory. In Leyden's cases the muscular nuclei were increased, became atrophied, and underwent fatty degeneration, giving rise thereby to extravasa-