

fed for the first three days entirely upon peptonized enemata, allowing the child only pieces of ice by the mouth. I think this precaution has contributed largely to the success of the operation. Dr. Waxham has suggested the addition of a false rubber epiglottis to the O'Dwyer tube, and then that the child be fed in the prone position, lying well forward when swallowing. Dr. J. Mount Bleyer recommends a tube more cup-shaped at its upper end, having also a false rubber epiglottis.

The difficulty of swallowing is caused less by the large head interfering with the closure of the epiglottis than by its impeding the action of the ary-epiglottic folds and general constriction of the laryngeal vestibule. That the lid action is not necessary in the act of swallowing in adults is proved by the experiments of Majendie and by the clinical history of patients whose epiglottis has been destroyed by syphilitic disease. Giving semi-fluid food is less liable to result in unpleasant symptoms than is liquid food.

4. The tube may slip down into the trachea. This should not, and hardly can, occur if a tube large enough is inserted. The large head is a protection against this accident. The tube may be coughed up, but in my experience, if the tube is properly weighted, it will not be coughed up until recovery is so far advanced that its re-introduction will not be needed.

5. If it becomes displaced the nurse cannot reintroduce it. This is true. But if the physician waits until the first coughing and expelling of mucus is over, the danger of displacement must be slight. I have not seen it occur.

So far as I have experience in the use of O'Dwyer tubes, I am pleased with them; and if the percentage of recovery is found, after a longer trial, to equal tracheotomy, I think it preferable to tracheotomy in private practice for the reasons given, and I am certain that general practitioners will find permission given them in a much larger number of cases to give the last chance of relief by surgical means to a pretty-large group of patients suffering from a very fatal and distressing disease.