

Diphtheria is universally regarded as being, in its origin, in some way closely connected with—as the offspring of, decomposing organic, especially excremental matter; and it is piteous in the highest degree that it may be thus unwittingly fastened upon a loved one by a parent or child, a lover or friend, along with, and by means of, the highest and most endearing mark of affection—a kiss.

The beloved daughter of our universally beloved Queen, who has so recently been the victim of this terrible malady, contracted in a way which has been well described by Earl Beaconsfield as ‘wonderfully piteous,’ had been, it appears, considerably interested in hygienic work. During the Franco-Prussian war a hospital was built under her auspices, and called by her name. She went out to meet nearly every train that arrived with wounded soldiers, and visited the hospital two or three times a day, and, it is said, knew nearly all the bed patients by sight, and remembered in many cases the nature of their injuries. A large part of her palace was given up to the work of preparing necessaries for the wounded, and most of her time was given to the sick and wounded. Truly such a life and its influences are of inestimable value.

The brief notice of her life, and history of circumstances relating to the disease which brought it to such an untimely end, in the following extracts from the *Medical Times and Gazette*, of Dec. 21, will doubtless interest and instruct many of our readers:

We cannot allow the present number of the *Medical Times and Gazette* to go from our hands without a brief expression of the deep concern of the Medical profession at the great loss the Queen has sustained by the death of the Princess Alice, and of their warm sympathy in her sorrow. . . . Of a singularly bright, gracious, sympathetic, and most loving and loveable nature, and richly and rarely endowed with mental gifts, the Princess presented in rare perfectness, as daughter, sister, wife, and mother, all the qualities of heart and head of the highest, purest and sweetest type of woman. Her life was one of loving care for, and happy devotion to others. Whilst still a very young woman she was a brave, skilful and untiring nurse to her father in his last illness, and then the comfort and support of her mother. Next we heard of her winning the love and admiration of the people of her adopted country by her quick, ready, and practical sympathy and help in their trials and anxieties. When the Prince of Wales was sick nigh unto death, she left her home for a time, to watch by his bedside and aid to restore him to health. And lastly, she devoutly nursed her own children and her husband through their late illness; and caught her fatal disease by an instinctive act of motherly love and devotion that has moved every heart by its pathos. The teaching of such a life is invaluable; and none know better than do medical men the vital and deep influence of such a domestic atmosphere as that the Princess spread around her, on the health of mind and body of all within its reach. Such living teachings as hers make the men and women who are the strength and salt of a nation.