

EARLY TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.—Dr. Garraway, in a communication to the *British Med. Jour.* (Feb. 19th, 1876,) endeavors to forcibly impress upon the public that the severity and mortality of diphtheria are regulated and controlled according to the period at which the disease comes under medical supervision. "Whereas ten or fifteen years ago," he says, "I looked upon these cases with a sort of horror, seeing that they were generally far advanced in blood-poisoning before medical aid was sought, now that my patients have been taught the importance of early treatment, I could well regard the disorder, save for here and there a grave exception, as one of the most trivial of throat-affections. But what is the first stage? That in which the germ or parasite, having lighted on its appropriate nidus (most commonly one of the tonsils,) has begun to multiply and spread over the adjacent mucous surfaces, like mould upon raspberry jam, to which it is not very dissimilar. It has not yet taken root enough to impregnate the constitution with its baleful influence: the pulse is not quickened; the temperature is not raised: the tongue, perchance, is not furred. In all cases of illness, when diphtheria is prevalent, it is expedient to look into the throat, as occasionally when there is not even ground of suspicion, the characteristic spot or layer of mouldiness, like an irregular patch of white kid, will be discerned. Now is the time when we are enabled to say, 'Thus far shalt thou go and no further.' Now is the time when one single painting with a strong solution of nitrate of silver will effectually destroy the parasite and rescue the patient. Twenty-four hours after this application, the "white leather" is seen dark and shrivelled, and the following day it has dropped off and disappeared. Contrast this with the same disease three days later on. I need not describe it; the picture has been only too vividly impressed upon the minds of all of us; the layer of deposit spreads more or less over the fauces, perhaps entering the larynx, when recovery can scarcely be looked for; the rapid pulse, the exalted temperature, the extreme nerve prostration, the blood more hopelessly poisoned than in typhoid fever, and death more imminent."

EFFORTS are being made in London, Eng., to get a clause inserted in some Bill in Parliament to compel the builders of all houses to be erected in future in the metropolis to construct a ventilation-pipe, to be carried from the drain of the house above the roof of the building; so that the sewer-gases, instead of entering the house through the drains, will be carried off at the top of each house.