

Items of General Interest

THE ANTITOXIN TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA

Again are we nearing the season when the problem of diphtheria and its treatment must be met and solved. The writer of this paragraph is forcibly reminded of the fact by the receipt of a modest but important brochure of sixteen pages bearing the title "Antidiphtheric Serum and Antidiphtheric Globulins." A second thought is that here is a little work that every general practitioner ought to send for and read. Not that the booklet is in any sense an argument for serum therapy. It is nothing of the kind. Indeed, the efficacy of the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria is no longer a debatable question, that method of procedure having long since attained the position of an established therapeutic measure. The pamphlet is noteworthy because of the timeliness of its appearance, the mass of useful information which it presents in comparatively limited compass, and the interest and freshness with which its author has been able to invest a subject that has been much written about in the past dozen or fifteen years. Its tendency, one may as well admit, is to foster a preference for a particular brand of serum, but that fact lessens not one whit its value and authoritativeness.

Here is a specimen paragraph, reprinted in this space, not so much to show the scope and character of the offering as to emphasize its helpful tone and to point out the fact that its author was not actuated wholly by motives of commercialism:

"Medical practitioners have learned that, inasmuch as the main problem presented in the treatment of a case of diphtheria is the neutralization of a specific toxin, the true antitoxin cannot too soon be administered; moreover, that antitoxin being a product of definite strength, a little too little of it may fail when a little more would have succeeded—hence larger or more frequently repeated doses are becoming more and more the rule. One more point: if the medical attendant is prompt, as he must be, and fearless, as he has a right to be, the full justification of his course will hinge upon the choice of the best and most reliable antidiphtheric serum to be had; for while there is little or no danger of harm ensuing from the use of any brand issued by a reputable house, the best results—which may mean recovery as the alternative of death—can only be hoped for from the use of the best serum."

The brochure is from the press of Parke, Davis & Co., who will doubtless be pleased to send a copy to any physician upon receipt of a request addressed to them at their main offices, Walkerville, Ont.

Many physicians are prescribing Sal Lithofos, which is indicated in many conditions. This preparation contained the various elements as lithia and soda combined in proper proportions. It has been found useful in renal and bilious disorders, the uric acid diathesis and rheumatism. It is a pleasant aperient given in graded doses. A sample may be obtained by writing the Wingate Chemical Co., Montreal.