

A CASE OF TETANUS.

ON the 17th of August, 1905, I was called to see H. M., aged 17 years, and secured the following history:

On the 27th of July, while working in the harvest field, this boy was kicked on the nose by a colt. The nose was badly bruised and cut and the wound made became purulent and remained open, but apart from the discharge and soreness the patient suffered no other inconvenience. On the 12th of August he noted stiffness of the jaws and soreness of the neck, which gradually extended to the other muscles and increased in severity. On the 16th of August he was suddenly seized with spasm of the muscles of the back, causing him to lose his balance and fall to the ground.

When I saw the patient the following day he was unable to walk and was suffering intense muscular pain. The facial muscles were set, giving the appearance of risus sardonicus. The jaws were tightly clinched. The digestive organs were very inactive. The tongue when seen was heavily coated, the breath foetid and the bowel obstinately constipated. The pulse and temperature were quite normal. The urine was loaded with urates and later became foul smelling. The respirations were not involved at first, but some days later became labored when the respiratory muscles were involved in the spasm. In the course of the next few days the rigidity of the muscles spread practically all over the body except to the arms, which were only slightly involved. The patient fell into the position of opisthotonos, but on several occasions the body was drawn to the right side, and on one or two occasions was thrown forward so that he twisted himself out of bed. Tonic spasms came on at varying intervals, averaging at first two per hour. Between these spasms while the muscles relaxed somewhat they always retained more or less rigidity. During intervals between the spasms and during sleep the muscles of the jaw would so relax as to allow a spoon to be placed between the teeth, and at these periods he was fed and was able to take sufficient nourishment. While sleeping the tongue often protruded between the teeth and a sudden spasm would at times seize him, causing the tongue to be bitten. In attempting to prevent this, corks, pencils and bits