

LIFE INSURANCE AND SYPHILITIC "RISKS,"

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson has published a paper in the London Practitioner on the "Modern Treatment of Syphilis," in the course of which he considers some of the more important relations of syphilis and life insurance. He states that he had recently been requested by a life insurance company to formulate a code of rules for the guidance of its examiners when considering the acceptance or rejection of applicants for insurance who have had syphilis. His advice on this subject was for the most part favorable to the applicants; with this exception, however, that he would decline those persons who at the time of their presentation, shall be undergoing the active development of secondary symptoms. These applicants, he advises, should be told to wait until these symptoms had disappeared. He based this counsel on the fact that it is always desirable to know how well or how ill the syphilitic patient sustains the specific treatment proper to the second stage of the disease, and also how willing and attentive he may be to follow out the directions of his physician. Mr. Hutchinson holds that an insurance company might make a profitable business out of syphilitic risks accepted in the early stage of the disease and taken at the ordinary rates, for he has found that the threatened life is often a long one. In his experience such syphilitic persons appear quite as likely to attain to length of days as others who have not been syphilitic. In the cases of those who present themselves free from symptoms, but who have the history of a former attack, the advice is that they be not refused, provided they have not definitely become the subject of the tertiary lesions of the disease, or have not, owing to idiosyncrasy or inadequate treatment, had a prolonged siege of secondary symptoms. But even among these there are not a few would be regarded by Mr. Hutchinson as eligible risks at ordinary rates.—*Journal American Medical Association.*

PRURITUS SENILIS.

The *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift* gives the following treatment:

1. Starch or bran baths once a day.
2. At night the body should be washed with water at 104° temperature, to which the following has been added:

Carbolic acid	3i;
Aromatic vinegar	3vi. M.

3. A powder should then be dusted on containing

Salicylate of bismuth	3iiiss;
Starch	3ij. M.

—*Am Practit.*

THE GREAT VALUE OF PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN IN DIPHTHERIA.

In the next chapter, we shall give further details with regard to the treatment of diphtheria, but at this point we feel that we should not close without announcing in the most emphatic terms, that one of the most available agents that we have for the fighting of diphtheria locally, and preventing constitutional involvement, is the "Medicinal Peroxide of Hydrogen" made by Chas Marchand, of New York. We would take no chances by using any other manufacture. Charles Marchand was the pioneer in the development of this particular agent, for medical use. It is the "Medicinal" Peroxide of Hydrogen which can be depended upon to render diphtheria germs inert as thoroughly as water can be depended upon to put out a fire, or as heat can be relied upon to annihilate the icicle. We believe that every case of sore throat, whether pronounced diphtheria or not, as well as every case of scarlet fever, should have applied to the sore throat at intervals varying according to the necessities of the situation, the full strength of the Marchand's Peroxide of Hydrogen. It may be used as a gargle, though I am somewhat in favor of flushing the parts with a good syringe, or if this is not available, owing to the objection of the patient, particularly if it be a little one, atomizers are now furnished which act very efficiently, and by using them frequently, the full effect can be secured. It is well to give internally occasionally, teaspoonful doses of the peroxide. It may be diluted or not, as one pleases. All the secretion which has been swallowed will thus be acted upon in the stomach. In addition, there is a general accumulation of fermentative products in the stomach, undigested food, etc. "The oxidation of these irritants is desirable. If the patient complains that the application is irritating, it may be deluted with one or two or three parts of water.

The position which we took nearly four years ago with reference to the use of Peroxide of Hydrogen in the treatment of diphtheria in a paper read before the St. Louis Medical Society, has been strengthened with the experience which has followed. We would emphasize every material point then made in that paper. If asked "if we were to depend upon only one agent in the local treatment of diphtheria, what would we call for," the response would be emphatic, in thundering tones, "Marchand's Peroxide of Hydrogen," and if we ascertained that any druggist furnished our patient with any other than Marchand's it would be sufficient for us to condemn that druggist and rather than run the gauntlet of his repeating the offense, we would supply the medicament at our own expense.—*Medical Mirror.*