

## DIPHTHERIA.

A disease affecting the fauces appears to have been prevalent for some months past in the Townships of Medonte, Orillia, and a few other places in Canada West. In the *Northern Advance*, a paper published at Barrie, C.W., there appeared a letter from Dr. Ardagh, about ten weeks ago, on this subject, which would have better seen the light in the pages of this Journal. His object would not have been served as well, in all probability, thereby, that of giving general as well as local diffusion to his peculiar treatment, which is detailed at length, and in which we perceive nothing novel. More lately in the same paper, of Nov. 28, an editorial announcement appears that a species of sore throat is raging epidemically, and described by the *Huron Signal* as "alarming," in that section. It says, "within three weeks, in a neighbourhood of two square miles, there have been twelve deaths, and near twice that number severely ill." The Editor further says, that "it is characterized by a stifling in the breast, accompanied by laborious breathing. The tonsils and other parts of the throat become violently inflamed, producing suppuration, which generates in such quantities that it would seem as if the patient were literally choked to death." Such symptoms resemble, to our mind, those of Tonsillitis; and on reading Dr. Ardagh's letter alluded to, which seems to have been intended to convey the idea, that the treatment which he adopts was peculiarly successful, we can perceive nothing like the genuine symptoms of the epidemic, if such there was. We have heard of cases of diphtheria in Quebec and in this city, some having occurred, it is alleged, upwards of twelve months ago; but we have seen nothing, nor have we heard of anything, tending to prove that diphtheria, as it has been witnessed in France and in some places in England, has appeared anywhere in our midst. In all the places in which diphtheria has as yet appeared, it has prevailed epidemically. We are not aware that it has appeared anywhere sporadically; and we are therefore inclined to doubt the existence of the disease in any part of Canada as yet, or at least until its peculiarities as described by Bretonneau, &c., are demonstrated.

## SMALL-POX IN PHILADELPHIA.

The *Philadelphia Enquirer* of Nov. 30th contains a distressing account of the prevalence of small-pox in some of the suburban districts of that fine city, whole families being at the time prostrated with it, with little likelihood of recovery, while the number of deaths has been generally very great. It alludes in terms of the highest praise to the professional visits of a young physician of the name of Dr. Penrose, who has charge of the indigent poor of the third poor district. It remarks that "he deserves the highest commendations for his attentions to these poor persons." The medical profession presents to our mind, no more beautiful picture than this, of one of its members fearlessly discharging his duties in the abodes of suffering, misery, and death, himself running every risk of his own life by contracting one of the most loathsome and contagious diseases known in our catalogues, and alleviating, by his ministrations, the distress of the unfortunate patients, when all others flee. This is what we call heroism of the highest order. The heroism