

to suffer than the strong and vigorous. Climate and season do not influence it ; it presents the same features the world over. The period of incubation is from 2 to 3 days, but even 14 days may elapse from the exposure to the first appearance of the disease.

Pharyngeal diphtheria is the commonest form of the disease, 19 cases out of 20 commence in this situation.

The early symptoms of this disease are difficult to classify ; usually we are called to see a child who has perhaps vomited its last meal, is slightly feverish and listless, has perhaps had a convulsion, is pale and pinched looking ; then on opening the mouth we find more or less decided redness, with swelling of one or both tonsils ; soon afterwards we see a sharply defined whitish patch, perhaps on the tonsils or posterior wall of the pharynx ; it resembles at first coagulated mucus, it is semi-transparent, grows concrete and thick and very soon reaches a membranous consistence.

The majority of text-books teach us that any attempt at detaching this membrane will leave a bleeding surface. From personal experience I can safely say that this does not always occur. I have frequently removed a diphtheritic membrane without causing any hæmorrhage. Trousseau maintains that by careful manipulation there is not the slightest oozing of blood, and that it can, moreover, be shown by the aid of the microscope that on the surface which adhered to the mucous membrane the epithelium remains with its vibratory ciliæ intact.

The disease may extend from the pharynx upwards to the nose, lachrymal ducts and eustachian tubes, and downwards involving the trachea and its divisions. Almost invariably the lymphatic glands at the angle of the jaw corresponding with the swollen tonsil are turgid. This symptom is of paramount importance, as in ordinary membranous sore throat the glandular engorgement is entirely absent, or if present is much less marked than in pharyngeal diphtheria.

When the disease is left to itself it generally remains for five or six days confined to the pharynx, the older the subject the longer is the disease in becoming developed. False membranes