

8 p. m. Called Dr. M. in consultation, for the purpose of performing tracheotomy. Breathing somewhat easier. Gave 3 grs. turpeth mineral, which was followed by vomiting of a large quantity of mucus with shreds of fibrinous membrane. Ordered treatment continued, promising to return in a few hours.

2 a. m., 18th. Breathing great deal better. During last act of vomiting a large quantity of membrane came away, and is now expectorating a good deal of tough, yellowish fibrin, with frothy sputa.

6 a. m. Crowing cough gone, breathing easy, has been taking beef tea and wine. Ordered eucalyptus and pilocarpin to be given every hour, with generous doses of wine and beef tea.

4 p. m. Patient still improving : breathing natural.

19th, 10 a. m. Patient quite bright : has taken some solid food ; cannot speak out loud ; has had action of bowels, but urine very scanty. Ordered nitre, juniper, and digitalis, and the eucalyptus and pilocarpin stopped.

21st. Patient convalescent, and visits discontinued.

26th, 2 p. m. Called again to see this little patient, and found a return of disease, with all its horrors. Resumed eucalyptus and pilocarpin, giving it every hour, and directed that three grains turpeth mineral be given every four hours, with lime steam and hot fomentations.

9 p. m. With every act of vomiting shreds of membrane are given off, tinged with blood.

27th, 9 a. m. Patient better. Treatment continued, lengthening the interval between the doses of eucalyptus and pilocarpin to two hours.

28th. Patient still improving. Eucalyptus mixture every four hours, and the diuretic given three times a day.

30th. Patient convalescent.

Since the date of the foregoing case I have had three others, and treated them the same. Two recovered, one died ; the latter, some twelve miles from town, I visited twice, and in view of the poor nursing the child received, do not think the treatment had a fair chance.

I have also used the eucalyptus and pilocarpin in fifteen cases of diphtheria, with only two deaths. Tincture iron and quinine, with whisky, were given freely, but I am inclined to think that to eucalyptus and pilocarpin I owe my success in this disease. I have used pilocarpin freely in follicular tonsillitis with the best of results, and mention these facts for the purpose of calling the attention of the profession to them, believing that, if properly used, they will not disappoint.

Dr. T. Gaillard Thomas gives it as his opinion that the diagnosis of pregnancy at any time less than three months from its inception is an impossibility, and insists that this fact remembered in examining a woman whose menses have stopped, would guard the physician against error.

THE CONTAGIOUS SKIN DISEASES.

Dr. Arthur Van Harlingen very particularly remarks, in the *Polyclinic*, that one of the first questions which occurs in the study of skin diseases, and usually the first one which the patient puts to the physician is, "is this disease contagious?" It is a question that ought to be answered at once, and as the number of the contagious skin troubles is small, they ought to be thoroughly studied in order that the patient may be given the proper answer to his question unhesitatingly. The dermatic affections which are contagious are all of the syphilermata, although to a greater or lesser degree. Then we have scabies, the various forms of pediculosis, ringworms, parasitic sycosis, favus, linea versicolor, impetigo contagiosa, molluscum epitheliale (m. contagiosum), and some of the rarer troubles, such as farcy. If, as is asserted by a number of good authorities, lupus, lepra and other affections depend upon specific bacilli they are, to a greater or lesser degree, contagious also, and might be included in such a list. The supposition of such a quality at all events would do no more than diminish the danger of such an accident occurring, and could do no possible harm.—*St. Louis Med. Jour.*

NITRO-GLYCERINE, NITRITE OF AMYL AND NITRITE OF SODIUM IN CARDIAC AND RENAL DISEASES.

Nitro-glycerine and nitrite of amyl have for some time been extolled in the treatment of mitral and aortic diseases, and also in granulated kidney. In a great number of cases these agents act very efficiently, relieving and dispelling some of the most alarming and conspicuous symptoms, such as chæmicranca, the array of phenomena which characterize a paroxysm of angina pectoris, and also many of the phenomena which indicated the presence of uremic poison. As these affections are manifested by more or less cardiac weakness and high arterial tension, the *modus operandi* of these medicaments consists in energising the heart's action and lowering the blood-pressure, this wise relieving anæmia and venous stasis, aiding, thereby, the elimination of effete matter through the renal excretions.

Nitro-glycerine, which may be administered either in solution one per cent, or in pill form, has the great disadvantage of being uncertain in its action. Sometimes, one single drop or one pill produces very severe phenomena, referable to the head ; others, a dose tenfold larger receives no response from the system. Nitrite of amyl possesses not the inconveniences of nitro-glycerine ; is of easier and readier administration (from 5 to 10 drops by inhalation), but its action is transient and ephemeral. It is adaptable to cases of great emergency, as the advanced guard of other potent agents, which require longer time to provoke their physiological action.

Nitrite of sodium is calculated to supersede the other medicaments. It is odorless and without