

Usually improvement began at once, and it was rarely necessary to push the drug beyond five or eight doses. It should be remarked in this connection, however, that a very generous and stimulating fluid diet (strong broth, port wine, milk, etc.) formed a feature of Dr. Roese's plan of treatment.

Those who are inclined to be sceptical with regard to the utility of medicines in the severer forms of diphtheria (and the profession contains many such) will scarcely accept the author's figures without challenge. On the other hand, for the very reason that violent diphtheria ordinarily justifies so gloomy a prognosis, we are ever ready to employ any means at our command which may possibly reduce its frightful mortality. There is no reason, therefore, why the turpentine treatment of this disease should not be given a fair trial.

ANTISEPSIS IN MEDICINE.

In a late number of the *Dublin Medical Press*, there is an article by Drs. Casson and Brownen, drawing attention to the fact that in the treatment of infectious diseases, the remedies employed for the protection of attendants or for the prevention of the spread of infection may produce beneficial results in the condition of the patients themselves. They say that iodine, slowly evaporated, might prove a useful adjunct to other means of treatment. According to Koch, the only *effective* disinfectants, besides chlorine, bromine, and iodine, are corrosive sublimate, osmic acid, and potassic permanganate. They necessarily exclude the mercurial sublimate from consideration. "Valuable, perhaps the most valuable, as it is among antiseptics for local surgical application, its highly poisonous character forbids its employment as a general medical disinfectant." Osmic acid and bromine are too expensive, and the offensive odor of the latter is against its employment. Chlorine is objectionable from the disagreeable pungency of its vapor. The potassic permanganate is comparatively valueless unless employed in considerable strength. Iodine, however, presents none of these disadvantages. It has long been recognized by all authorities as a true germicide disinfectant. They point out that its employment as a general disinfectant has been greatly lessened, owing to the difficulties experienced in its regular and gradual vaporization. Combined, however, with salicylic acid, they find that "it can be readily and permanently incorporated with fats, paraffins, or wax,

and when candies made from these hydrocarbons thus treated are ignited, iodine and phenol are evolved in a gaseous vaporized form. The phenol is produced by the decomposition of the salicylic acid, and its amount varies according to the temperature or rate of the combustion. Its presence, may be verified by passing the vapors of the combustion through dilute nitric acid, and thus producing trinitrophenol or picric acid. But where the combustion is rapid and complete the phenol is entirely destroyed, as all other *organic* materials such as eucalyptus, which has been suggested for somewhat similar treatment, must necessarily be. It is not so, however, with regard to the iodine. Being *inorganic*, it is wholly volatilized and thrown out as vapor into the surrounding atmosphere, but it is in no sense destroyed. Its presence in the gaseous products of the combustion may be demonstrated by passing them through a solution of starch, or along a tube moistened with starch mucilage. In either case the iodide of starch is speedily produced, and may be recognized by the usual tests. A very faint odor of iodine may be detected when these candles had been burnt in quantity in a close atmosphere; but this is never unpleasant, or in the least degree irritable to breathe; indeed, in several cases of asthma, spasmodic cough, and 'hay catarrh,' the patients have experienced great relief from the iodine vapor thus liberated. As a deodorizer its action is most marked; the smell of tobacco smoke is quickly and entirely destroyed by the combustion of these candles in the smoking room. The air of stuffy rooms and smelling closets may be rapidly purified by the same means. The odor of sulphuretted hydrogen and of ammoniacal air from a close stable have been very speedily and completely discharged by contact with the same vapor."

PERSONAL.

Dr. Rolland, of Montreal, Professor of diseases of the ear and throat in Victoria Medical Faculty, has been elected a member of the Otological and Laryngological Society of Paris.

We are pleased to learn that Dr. Robt. Howard of St. Johns is still improving in his general health, and that quite recently he saw a case in consultation with one of his confreres. This is the first professional work he has done in two years.

Dr. Bower, of Waddington, N. Y., was in Montreal recently.