

it a powerful agent for good, and children tolerate this drug to a remarkable degree. The treatment of this disease has a superlative interest. It is strange how many specifics there are—how many there are that find sure cures and safe cures. There are medical men who say they have never lost a case. Happy is the man who can so flatter himself.

The local treatment is secondary in importance to the general treatment. The throat is now no longer improved by caustics, acids and rough swabs, which would produce a sore throat where none already existed. The throat should be kept as clean as possible with frequent gargles of hot water, which lessens the hyperæmia. Solutions of chlorate of potash are grateful. The soft brush of camel's hair should always be used to make applications. There are many applications so equally good that it is little difference which we employ. Sulphurous acid and glycerine, with the addition of thymol, is effectual and pleasant. Oil of eucalyptus and liquid petroleum make another good topical remedy. Lactic or acetic acid with glycerine I have found useful. The atomizer is an excellent instrument to make applications to the throat by the mouth, or through the nose, where the patient's age permits. Much harm can be done by using violence to dress the throat. Solutions that permit of being swallowed are better than forcible swabbings. Formerly membranes were eagerly detached, leaving a raw, bloody surface, upon which rapidly forms a new membrane, often in 24 hours. The membranes should be well cleansed and disinfected, and allowed to drop off when ripe for separation, after which they rarely return. Loose, hanging portions can be removed with scissors. Rossback, of Germany, after four years' trial, speaks favourably of the vegetable digestive papayotin. It acts well in an acid or an alkaline medicine. Dr. Lewis Smith mixes one drachm of Fairchild's extractum pancreatis with three of sod. bicarb, then adds one teaspoonful of this to six of water and pencils the fauces, and uses trypsin with the atomizer for membrane in the larynx. A discussion of this subject at the last meeting of the American Medical Association confirmed the use of tried remedies, but nothing new of value was introduced.

The longer I treat diphtheria the more am I convinced of the power of the chloride of iron tincture, alcohol, quinine and chlorate of potash, but the first mentioned is superior to all, but these articles are all eminently safe, whether the tendency to death be from asthenia or from asphyxia; but its best effects are seen only when administered in very large doses.

Dr. Jacobi, in the *American System of Medicine*, recommends from 5 to 15 minims properly diluted every 15 minutes or half hour, and I am sure from my own experience that this is valuable teaching, and there is certainly a tolerance of the drug in this disease.

Alcohol given early and freely stands next to iron. Austin Flint, in an admirable article on Medicinal and non-Medicinal Therapeutics, thus speaks of alcohol in this and kindred affections: If alcohol be useful as a material for combustion within the body, it is indicated in the condition of fever, prior to the indication for its employment to sustain the failing powers of life. The object from this point of view is to forestall these indications and prevent the asthenia. It is evident that employed with a view to test fairly its value as an antiseptic or parasiticide, or as an antidote, it is important that it should be employed early, continuously, and in as large quantities as it may be tolerated.

Chlorate of potash is a well established remedy, but given in very large quantities will produce nephritis and albuminuria.

Quinine in tonic doses is an excellent adjunct, but its bitter taste makes it difficult to administer to young children.

When croupy symptoms appear there is still a possibility of arresting the further progress of the membrane by the increased dose of iron and alcohol. For many years I have found excellent results from the frequent administration of small doses of calomel, 1 gr. per hour, and free innunction of the neck with oleate of mercury. I know no remedy equally potent.

The inhalation of moisture, in the form of vapour, is beyond doubt of considerable value. The atomizer is the best instrument for producing the vapour.

I have tried to use ice, but my patients would never tolerate it long enough to judge of its merits.