

Sept. 29th.—Wound healthy; discharge serous.

Sept. 30th.—Temperature 100°; wound dry and yellowish along the edges. The mother has a patch of diphtheria on the tonsil and a very sore throat.

Oct. 1st.—Record as yesterday.

Oct. 2nd.—Dyphtheritic membrane visible in the wound. It was observed to-day that she would notice the hand before the eyes. She is very fond of grapes, and they have been given freely to her during the whole period.

The dura mater is even with the skull, and is covered with dyphtheria.

Oct. 3rd.—Wound very offensive; the left ear is discharging an offensive matter and a small patch has appeared in the throat.

Oct. 4th.—Wound greyish, very offensive and sloughy-looking. The parts which were united have separated, and the wound gapes to its full extent, exposing the bone, which is also covered with a sloughing membrane, but is dry in places. This state of affairs continued for ten or twelve days—the membrane alternately forming and sloughing. The tonsils, uvule and palate were covered at times but cleared up in eight or ten days, and, as I have noticed in several other cases, this disease is seldom fatal when an external wound is affected at the same time. Sulphur was blown over the wound, into the ear and the throat, and appeared to lessen the fœtor of the wound and ear.

Oct. 23rd.—The wound presents a granulating surface which secretes a yellow pus not so foetid. The child has been very well in her general symptoms, considering the ordeal of dyphtheria, and, notwithstanding her sickness, her intelligence has developed rapidly.

Nov. 3rd.—No dyphtheria; wound healthy and granulating. Decided to remove another portion of bone; by accident the dura was sawn through to the extent of $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch. No unfavorable symptoms followed, and on the 9th of November she left the city for her home in Ontario, the wound granulating and healthy. Subsequent operations on the skull, in which, by accident or otherwise, I have opened the arachnoid cavity my belief is that it is of no consequence, as in wounds of other serous or synovial cavities, providing the wound is kept open to allow for free drainage of fluids. This was my error in the first operation, but I did not anticipate such

serious results in closing the wound for a few hours on account of the profuse hemorrhage.

An enquiry into the causes of idiocy leads us into a consideration of those conditions which are essential to the manifestation of mental acts. The conditions requisite for a bright manifestation of electricity are insulated cells, proper fluids, pure metal, bright connections, good conductors, size of cells for volume and number for intensity; and, in like manner, the organ of thought, when we examine into its anatomy, is constructed in accordance with certain conditions which are essential to the performance of its functions. These may be divided into: 1, a proper construction; 2, arrangement for nutrition; 3, contact with the world. The brain is a composite organ, a collection of galvanic batteries placed for convenience in one room, the skull, and so connected that certain lines of thought and action are characteristic of the animal to which it belongs; nutrition is provided for by the continuous circulation of a properly constituted fluid, the blood, an equal distribution is effected through the circle of Willis, and the requirements are regulated by the vasomotor nerves. The ventricular system provides for the maintenance of equal pressure upon the vesicular sheet, which is the seat of consciousness, the appetites, passions, emotions and the intellect, which pressure, or rather support, is maintained by the cerebro-spinal fluid and is regulated by the choroid plexuses which are capable of absorbing or effusing the fluid very rapidly. A serous membrane surrounds the brain, which indicates motion in the mass and allows for the motion of the brain corresponding to the movements of the mind, and which have been demonstrated by physiological experiments upon animals. The machine is set into action by contact with the outer world through the organs of sense. It is obvious that any derangement in the adjustment of these conditions, or defect in any one, must produce a corresponding defect in mental operations, which will be greater or less according to the extent or importance of the defect in the factors.

It is further obvious that defects may exist in parts as well as the whole of the brain, which gives that endless variety of mind by which men differ from one another, and of which every man is an illustration; each man being a modi-