## MONTREAL

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## TWO CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

During the past few months there have been a large number of cases of diphtheria in the city. Some of these have been most malignant, while others were of a milder type; two cases coming under my observation were of more than usual interest. A boy of thirteen years was taken sick with a sore throat. His head ached. He was drowsy and stupid most of the time for twenty-four hours before I was called to see him. He had frequently been afflicted with ulcerated throat before and the parents were not fearing any serious disease. One look at the throat showed a rapidly spreading greyish membrane, foul breath and swollen glands. His temperature was elevated and pulse rapid, weak and irregular. He was a very sick boy. Prostration was marked. Difficulty in swallowing kept him from eating or drinking.

The treatment required absolute rest in bed with every possible effort to maintain his strength. Luckily the patient followed closely all directions. The suitable remedy was given every 15 minutes during waking hours. Antitoxine was administered as quickly as possible. The throat was sprayed with an antiseptic solution; within four days the membrane had entirely disappeared. But at this stage the pulse was decidedly erratic and the deepening flushes on the boy's face showed unmistakable signs of a sluggish circulation. The blood flowed through the heart with a muffled sound; every judication pointed to heart failure. The patient was not allowed to raise hand or foot and was fed as tenderly as a babe. Death might have instantly resulted from any excitement or exertion. Very mild stimulants were administered for fortyeight hours. Homeopathic remedies were given and in the course of another week the boy was practically out of danger.

Of three other children in the house only one contracted the disease, and this hoy had slept with the patient the first night of his illness. The membrane was marked, the drowsiness and languor were present but there was very little prostration. Antitoxine was injected at once. The proper remedies were given, none of the serious heart symptoms developed. Nourishment was readily taken, a quick recovery resulted. Both boys are now absolutely well.

These cases illustrate thoroughly the manner in which the same disease will afflict different members of a family. The great advantage of Homeopathic remedies is at once apparent. The patient is treated as the symptoms demand. Different remedies were required in each administered case. Antitoxine was because it appeared to be the indicated remedy. Homoopathic remedies are frequently given subcutaneously and sometimes with wonderfully beneficial results. The first case also demonstrates how dangerous and treacherous diphtheria may become. The poison appears to