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CROUP.

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The essential feature of croup is a spasm of the muscles of the larynx, causing complete closure of the glottis, followed by a gradual opening.

While the glottis is closed respiration is stopped; while the glottis is in a partially opened state the respiration is noisy. The most important factor is closure of the glottis; but the most obvious, though least important, is the noisy respiration. The disease, croup, has thus been named from its most obvious symptom, and the remark that croup is a symptom and not a disease is just.

We shall not weary you with repetition of the symptom complex of croup, but treat it only under two headings:

1. Causes.
2. Treatment.

To understand the causes of croup we must understand some of the mechanism of respiration so far as it concerns the larynx.

The muscles of inspiration are stronger than the muscles of expiration and if the muscles of respiration, both inspiratory and expiratory, be stimulated at the same time the result is an inspiratory act, the expiratory muscles being overpowered.

The muscles of the larynx consist of two sets—those opening and those closing the glottis. Those closing the glottis are stronger than those opening it. If all the muscles of the larynx be stimu-