

"congested sore-throat" and "rheumatic sore-throat," as well as the ordinary ones of "tonsillitis" and "follicular tonsillitis." But Mr. Spear inclines to the view that not all the "croup," &c., is really diphtheritic in nature; though the facts adduced in his own reports seem to support the modern doctrine. The association of diphtheria with humidity of atmosphere and dwellings is again suggested by Mr. Spear; and the potent influence of school assemblage in promoting and furthering the disease is again proved to demonstration. On the question of the etiological dependence of the disease on insanitary conditions, some of the Inspectors appear to differ; for whilst Dr. Bruce Low, by proceeding on broad inductive principles, shows that localities which had the most diphtheria were the least insanitary, and the converse, and therefore, dismisses this factor from consideration, Mr. Spear, on the other hand, seems to incline to the causal connection of the two, particularly in the case of marked excremental pollution of the atmosphere produced by a bad midden system. The supporters of the latter view would naturally rely less upon the propagation of the disease by personal communication than those who deny the relation of diphtheria with insanitary conditions. And this leads us to the more novel points that present themselves in the reports that have been recently published. They are (1) the influence of factories in disseminating the disease; (2) the suggestion of mediate conveyance of diphtheria infection, *e. g.*, by the clothes of persons themselves not suffering from the complaint, by articles of clothing and manufacture proceeding from infected houses; (3) the possibility of cases discharged too soon from hospital causing recrudescence of the malady. The first two matters are laid out in Dr. Bruce Low's able Halstead Report, where it is shown that factory women employed in a town all the week, where diphtheria was prevailing, and spending their Saturday to Monday at home in villages around communicated the disease there extensively; and where instances are recorded of the families of clergymen and doctors in the rural parts owing their attacks to the head of the family bringing the disease home in his clothes, and of its being spread by means of coats and straw plait sent out from infected houses. The third point is brought out by Mr. Spear who gives an account of a case discharged from hospital after only twenty-eight days' detention being shortly followed by other cases in the same house. The possibility of the mediate infection of diphtheria is one that has not been sufficiently recognized up to the present, and we trust that future observations on the subject will not be wanting. At any rate, the evidence is sufficient to indicate the need of caution, especially by all concerned in hospital administration. Not less important is it that patients should not be

discharged from hospital before full recovery; and it is a good rule to insist upon a minimum detention of six weeks.—*Med. Press and Circular.*

NEWS ITEMS.

THE WILLIAM F. JENKS MEMORIAL PRIZE.

The second triennial prize, of four hundred and fifty dollars, under the deed of trust of Mrs. William F. Jenks, will be awarded to the author of the best essay on "The symptomatology and treatment of the nervous disorders following the acute infectious diseases of infancy and childhood."

The conditions annexed by the founder of this prize are, that the "prize or award must always be for some subject connected with obstetrics, or the diseases of women, or the diseases of children;" and that "the trustees, under this deed for the time being, can, in their discretion, publish the successful essay, or any paper written upon any subject for which they may offer a reward, provided the income in their hands may, in their judgment, be sufficient for that purpose, and the essay or paper be considered by them worthy of publication. If published, the distribution of said essay shall be entirely under the control of said trustees. In case they do not publish the said essay or paper, it shall be the property of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia."

The prize is open for competition to the whole world, but the essay must be the production of a single person.

The essay, which must be written in the English language, or if in a foreign language, accompanied by an English translation, should be sent to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., before January 1, 1892, addressed to Louis Starr, M.D., Chairman of the William F. Jenks Prize Committee.

Each essay must be distinguished by a motto, and accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the same motto and containing the name and address of the writer. No envelope will be opened except that which accompanies the successful essay.

The Committee will return the unsuccessful essays if reclaimed by their respective writers, or their agents, within one year.

The Committee reserves the right not to make an award if no essay submitted is considered worthy of the prize.

The celebrated Jonathan Hutchinson recently exhibited a case of skin disease before a medical society, with the statement that he was unable to make the diagnosis.