

BE ALWAYS ASHAMED TO CATCH THYSELF IDLE.



TREATMENT OF SCARLATINA.

HAVASSE has had great experience of practice among children. The result of his treatment of scarlet fever has been so uniformly successful that he has not lost a single case for upwards of seven years. He says :

The system I adopt, in a case of scarlet fever, is to keep the bedroom cool—I may say cold—and to have a thorough ventilation through it ; I, therefore, throw open the windows, be it winter or summer, and have the curtains and valances of the bed removed. If it be winter time, I allow the patient to have one blanket and a sheet ; if it be summer, a sheet only to cover him. If the throat be not seriously affected, I merely order a narrow strip of flannel once around the throat. If the tonsils be much enlarged, I apply a barm and oatmeal poultice to the throat changing it night and morning. I prescribe an acidulated infusion, say lemonade or similar drink, quite sour, to be taken as often as the patient chooses. This is the only medicine I give. Where the child is old enough, I find roasted apples, mixed with raw sugar, very grateful to the patient.

Now with regard to food. If the infant be at the breast keep him entirely to it. If he be weaned, and under two years old, give him milk and water, and cold water to drink. If he be older, give him toast and water, and plain water from the pump, as much as he chooses ; let it be quite cold—the colder the better. Weak black tea, or thin gruel, may be given, but caring little if he take nothing but cold water, unless he be an infant at the breast. Avoid broths and stimulants of every kind.

Now, you must warily watch for a change of temperature of the skin. As long as the skin is hot, the above plan I steadily follow ; but the moment the skin of the patient becomes cool, which it will do probably in five or seven days, instantly close the window, and immediately put more clothes on the bed. But still do not purge.

When the appetite returns, you may consider the patient to be safe. The diet must now be gradually improved.

Another very important regulation is never to allow the patient to leave the house under a month in the summer, and under six weeks in the winter.—[BRAITHWAITE'S EPITOME.