

20 years ago, I came across a review of 1071 cases of diphtheria, 175 of which developed paralysis. It would be interesting to compare the course and results of the paralysis following diphtheria previous to the use of antitoxines with that which results at the present time. Of the 1071 cases 362 died from the effect of diphtheria before any paralysis had time to develop. 175 cases of paralysis developed from the surviving 709, and of these 17 ended fatally. In over 50 per cent. the paralysis was of the limited form, *i.e.* palate, ciliary muscle and ocular muscle. The onset was most marked on the 3rd, 4th and 5th week. The duration varied from 1—15 weeks, but the majority of the cases lasted from 6 to 7 weeks. Regarding deaths from the paralysis the greatest danger was during the 1st week, then lessening to the 5th week; there were none after this. In no case was the paralysis permanent. This report was of further interest as it showed the connection between the amount of exudation on the fauces and the subsequent paralysis. Three cases of paralysis showed no exudate, in 24 it was slight, in 45 moderate, and in 53 there was much exudate. Gowers states that adults furnish the greater proportion of paralysis in diphtheria; cases are few in infancy, but increase with the age of the patient. Also that paralysis is equally likely to follow mild attacks as those which are severe.

Dr. Gordon's cases appear to show very similar results, only the paralysis was later in developing. I would like to ask, what is the percentage of cases of diphtheria that develop paralysis now that antitoxine treatment is employed?

F. J. SHEPHERD, M.D. I would like to know the percentage of the laryngeal form in this condition.

J. ALEX. HUTCHISON, M.D. Some years ago I was called to a house to see a child who had developed inability to walk and I discovered four cases of diphtheritic paralysis in the family. They had had a little sore throat some three or four weeks previously. These cases got well. Two were of the laryngeal type, one involving the muscles. Within the past two or three months an old patient of mine, living in the country came to my office with a child complaining that he had something the matter with his throat; I referred her to Dr. Hamilton White, who found a typical pharyngeal paralysis of the throat. The child complained of sore throat some two or three weeks previously.

A. H. GORDON, M.D. In reply to Dr. Mussen's question, I think that the percentage of deaths from diphtheritic paralysis as reported by Rolleston, would be from 15 to 17 per cent.; this includes cardiac paralysis. His statistics show a total of 1500 cases, 116 dying from all