

breath when in too close contact with the patient, as friends are apt to be, or by the agency of dried sputum. As to treatment he recommends about 68° or 70° F. with plenty of fresh air, nourishing diet, and judicious use of tonics, and something to ease the fever and cough. His mainstay, however, on the treatment of the disease, is the inhalation of steam medicated with beechwood creasote. He dissolves a drachm in an ounce of alcohol and of this puts a teaspoonful in a pint or so of hot water in a croup kettle. Fever, cough and duration are all lessened by this agent.

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POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.—Dr. Martin W. Curran, in *Medical Record* for February 12th, strongly urges compression of the aorta in post partum hæmorrhage. He claims that it has not had a fair trial. He calls attention to the fact that a number of good authors mention it as a temporary expedient, but the writer thinks they do not recommend it with sufficient force to bring it into use. The aorta can readily be compressed just above the umbelicus. It will not do any harm to the aorta to maintain the pressure. The sympathetic nerves and ganglia should not be subjected to too long pressure. This can be avoided by moving the position of the hand upwards or downwards. While this pressure is being maintained by the left hand, the uterus should be gently compressed, and contraction induced by the right hand. Instead of this plan of treatment being a last resort, it should be the first in marked cases.

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BACILLUS TYPHOSUS IN SOIL.—The method of growth of the typhoid fever germ is a very important question. In the *British Medical Journal* for January 8th, 1898, we notice that Dr. John Robertson, Medical Health Officer for Sheffield, makes a very interesting statement. In conjunction with Dr. Maitland Gibson, a thorough examination of the soil of a district where typhoid fever had abounded, was carried out. No germs could be found in the soil; but by inoculation of the soil with the germ, and pouring on it organic matter the germs cultivated readily. These researches show that the typhoid fever bacillus is capable of growing very rapidly in some soils. They also show that the organism can survive from one season to the next, over the winter months. In one series of soils the germs lived for a period of twelve months, and responded to the test of culture. The germs are destroyed by abundant sunlight. The germs can rise through soil to the extent of eighteen inches, or even go down in the soil to a depth of three inches. They do not seem able to extend laterally. In order that the germs may grow in the soil they must receive organic matter on which they feed.