

work for farmer No. 2, in the latter part of June, and this farmer's hired man took diphtheria in the course of a week, and died after three days' illness. He next went to work for farmer No. 3, and in a week or ten days No. 3 and his hired man contracted the disease, both recovering. He then left No. 3 and went to work for farmer No. 4, and No. 4's two children took the disease in about the usual time, both recovering after a severe attack. This was July 4th, '88; this laborer having been at these four places during the month of June, and last few days of May. By this time people were afraid to employ him at their homes, and he was given work on the public roads. He worked at this till August 15th, when his eldest son, æt. 19, began to return home from the farmers where he had worked all summer, and he contracted diphtheria with extensive deposit in his throat and through his nose. He recovered, but owing to a resulting paralysis, did no more work till the following spring.

After the son's recovery they fumed the house with sulphur and carbolic acid, and washed up as well as they knew how. The father remained at home till November, when he returned to farmer No. 2, whose hired man had died from the disease in June. After working there a week or two, No. 2's son took diphtheria of a very malignant type, and died, the membrane having spread over his fauces, through his nose and into his larynx within three days. His mother next contracted the disease, but recovered after a very severe attack. These were the only two of the family who had the disease, as the other children were sent away as soon as the first one took sick, and did not return till all was thoroughly cleaned up.

There can be no doubt that ten persons contracted diphtheria from this one man, who as stated before, had it in his family but never had it himself. His oldest son took it by returning home in the evenings, three months after the other members of his family had recovered, and after they had removed to another house. This son again carried diphtheria to the next place where he went to work seven months after his own recovery. It is only fair to state that they were very dirty people and could not be relied on to carry out any sanitary measures.

The disease could not be accounted for in either of the four families by any communication be-

tween them, and there were no other cases in the district.

Another class of cases and one of great interest is to be found in those patients who have had the disease and have recovered but carry the germ in the recesses of their nose and fauces, or crypts of their tonsils. These cases are probably more numerous than one might think at first sight, two cases having come under my notice this spring, one where a young man came home discharged, cured but had a slight discharge from his nose following the diphtheritic attack. He gave diphtheria to two families of his relatives. The other where two children came to the country three weeks after the commencement of the disease. In the one child there remained a foul discharge from the ear. On its arrival in the country its mother washed out the ear every day, and in ten days she contracted the disease.

A writer in Hare's System of Therapeutics states that the germ has retained its vitality for five months after being dried and that it will live longer where there is moisture. If this statement be correct there seems to be no good reason why diphtheria germs might not live and flourish for a great length of time in the mouth and crypts of the tonsil.

These facts make it very difficult to set any time limit when a child may safely return to school or mingle with other children, and unless the medical attendant knows more than is usual about the amount of cleaning and disinfection done after the disease is over, and has also made bacteriological examinations, he must necessarily have some misgivings in certifying that the child may return to school. Nothing should be left after an attack of diphtheria that has not been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. A disinfectant wash should be used for mouth nose and throat in every case for some time after convalescence. The skin, hair, nails and ears should be thoroughly washed and no contaminated article or clothing worn. Great care must be taken in cleaning the household effects. It is here that mistakes are often made.

I know of one family where a new carpet was on the floor when diphtheria broke out. After they were all better, it was not thought necessary to take up this carpet, and it was not taken up for three years, but when they did take it up,