

"In cases presenting a diphtheritic character, the tincture of perchloride of iron should be administered in rather large doses in a separate mixture with chlorate of potash, and equal parts of the same with glycerine should be applied locally, with a camel's hair brush, several times in a day; but, as in the majority of cases among children it is next to impossible to use a local application more than once; the spray and permanganate solution will then prove of great service.

"As to other remedies recommended by various authors, ammonia is nasty, and cannot be taken well by children; carbolic acid has the same fault, and cannot be applied properly. Gargles are also useless in children, because they seldom reach the diseased surfaces, and warm baths and wet sheet packing are dangerous, because they are never carried out properly in private practice. The hypodermic injection of pilocarpine is a remedy that may give good results hereafter, but I have had no experience of its use."

HINTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF OVARIAN TUMORS.

Dr. A. MacDonald gives the following hints in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for November:

1. *Pregnancy*.—The possibility of pregnancy, the signs and symptoms of pregnancy, and waiting if in doubt, place the diagnosis beyond possible mistake, with a fair measure of care.

2. *Fibroid*.—A large fibroid with solid walls, leading to general enlargement of the uterus is easily diagnosed. The increased length which the sound enters, the fact that the uterus moves with the sound, the peculiar feel of the uterus, and the nearly constant menorrhagia, suffice to keep the diagnosis correct. It is quite common to hear a bruit in a case of uterine fibroid; only in vascular sarcomata is such audible if the tumor is ovarian. But much greater difficulty is experienced in cases of fibro-cystic tumors connected to the uterus, with or without pedicle. In that case we must try to ascertain whether the tumor is connected or disconnected with the uterus. Then the cyst of a fibro-cystic tumor may be tapped, when we expect to find only a thin fluid of great density, with some blood corpuscles, and possibly some non-striped muscular fibres. But in those cases it is often found that only an exploratory incision can determine the diagnosis with accuracy.

3. *Renal Cysts* begin below the false ribs and extend downward and forward. They have a line of resonance between them and the liver, due to the transverse colon, which is of value, as showing they are not of hepatic origin, and when aspirated they contain urea. Usually accompanying such there are urinary symptoms, but not always.

4. *Ascites* exhibits the characters of free motion of fluid to an imperfectly filled cavity. Accordingly, when the patient lies on her back, the abdomen

is flattened anteriorly, the flanks give a dull note, and there is clearness round and above the umbilicus. With change of the patient's position, the areas of resonance alter. Thus, if the patient is turned on her left side, the right flank gives a clear note, and *vice versa*. In case of tapping, an ascites, the thick gelatinous fluid characteristic of ovarian tumor is never obtained.

5. *Hydatid Cysts of the Liver*.—In this case the tumor grows from the liver, distending first the distance between the ensiform cartilage and the umbilicus, the reverse of an ovarian cyst. Again, tapping and discovering acephalocysts in the fluid is convincing evidence of the true nature of the tumor.

6. *Hysterical Abdominal Distention*, commonly known as spurious pregnancy, need deceive no one, as the percussion is uniformly resonant, and the tumor disappears under chloroform.—*Can. Lancet and Clinic*.

APHTHOUS SORE MOUTH OF INFANTS.

Prof. Wallace, Phila., believes that the sodium sulphite solution is the best remedy for aphthous sore mouth in infants. B. Sodii sulphit., gr. xxx; glycerini, aquæ, a a ʒ ss. M. To be used on a swab every two hours. Where the child is using a nursing bottle, scrupulous cleanliness is required. The rubber nipple should be turned inside out after each time of using, washed clean, and placed in a solution of bicarbonate of sodium (baking soda), in a tumbler, until again needed. It is better to have two, and use them alternately. Milk must never be allowed to stand in the nursing bottle until it becomes sour.—*Col. & Clin. Record*.

INHALATION OF MEDICATED VAPORS IN DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

Guillemin (*Archives Med. Belges*) summarizes his views as follows:

1. The affections of the mucous membrane of the respiratory passages may in certain cases be advantageously treated by inhalations of medicated vapors.

2. In the first stage of acute inflammation of this mucous membrane, pain, cough, and painful sensations, which are the consequence of irritation and dryness, are rapidly calmed by inhalations of warm, moist and aromatic vapors.

3. The calming action is still more decided if to the liquid, which serves for inhalation, there be added a small quantity of certain volatile calmative substances, such as ether, distilled cherry-laurel water, or conium.

4. Frequently renewed inhalations of essence of turpentine, when they are administered at the commencement of the first period of inflammation, may arrest its progress.