

patients, I think I have traced the source of contagion. Furthermore, it is apparently quite possible that the animal itself may be susceptible to the disease. Dr. O. Bourn reports in the British Medical Journal a case of whooping cough in a cat (noted in the August number of the CANADA HEALTH JOURNAL). In 1864 my father and one other member of our family were attacked with this disease, and during the time a large house cat was frequently asphyxiated by attacks of coughing; at times when long continued there was a peculiar noise which it was thought, very much resembled what my father called a "whoop." In October, 1886, I was treating a family by the name of Hare in this city, where there existed three cases of diphtheria in small children. The baby, a child eighteen months old, kept constantly at its side a pet poll-parrot; in fact, oftentimes the parrot would take sweetmeats from the mouth of the baby. At a later date the feathers of the parrot began to drop; it seemed to lose its activity, it coughed frequently and its mouth was filled with a glairy mucus. During health it was a superb linguist, its voice now became hoarse and eventually lost. Upon examination the throat presented a well-developed membrane. A few days ended the life of the bird. The children had been using the spray of a corrosive sublimate, and this was adopted with the bird but proved a failure. With these instances mentioned, which seem very much as if infectious diseases would in some instances attack the lower animals, too much care cannot be given to this method of spreading the contagion.

PREVENTION OF ADULTERATION.—

The question is frequently asked, says Dr. Bartley, chief chemist, Health De-

partment, Brooklyn, N.Y., in *Annals of Hygiene*, why do not the Health authorities put a stop to adulteration? The answer is that the people have not risen to a knowledge of the importance and the magnitude of the work, and will not support a sufficient force of officers to carry out the laws. As long as this is the case, and so long as the people insist upon pleasing their eyes and palates instead of demanding pure, nourishing and wholesome food, all the laws in Christendom cannot stop adulterations. Besides this, Boards of Health are organized and supported to protect the public health and not to suppress frauds. Hence they only take cognizance of adulterations which may affect the health of the consumer, and not his pocket. Public sentiment must be educated up to the spirit of the laws, before the latter can be made effective. Some time since, an inspection showed that grossly adulterated milk was being served to a leading hospital in this city. After the machinery of the law had been set in motion, to punish the offender, the superintendent of the hospital implored the authorities to withdraw the charge, because they had no fault to find with the milk. The superintendent believed that adulterated milk was good enough for invalids. It is to the daily and weekly press that we must look for the education of public sentiment upon these matters.

A CAUSE OF DIPHTHERIA.—Instances of the occurrence of diphtheria in the vicinity of partially dried mill ponds have been reported, but in these cases there was not clear and definite knowledge of the absence of contagion as a factor. Similar reports have been made by Health Boards, the most circumstantial of which, is to be found in the report of the State Board of