

The same thing is probably true of all formaldehyde disinfection of tubercle bacilli. The tubercle bacilli are not killed; they are unable to vegetate so long as they remain in contact with the formaldehyde; but so soon as they become removed from it their vegetative and pathogenic power returns.—*Medicine.*

The After-Treatment of Diphtheria.

White (*Journal of the American Medical Association*) tells us that the after-treatment of this disease consists in a sufficient period of rest in bed, and then in watching the effect of mild exercise on the heart, for several months at least, and grading it to meet individual requirements. Tonic drugs, such as strychnine and iron, are occasionally useful.

How rigidly the rest cure must be enforced depends entirely on the individual case. It was found last year in a study of cases in the hospital that it was not necessary to keep all patients in bed who had cardiac murmurs and a pulse which was slightly irregular and somewhat increased in rate. After four or five weeks of rest in bed the cases of moderate severity experienced no ill effects from being allowed to sit up for short and progressively longer intervals, if the heart was carefully watched; frequently the heart's action seemed to be improved by this change.

It has also been the case that many mild cases after leaving the hospital with murmurs and slight cardiac enlargement and irregularity became entirely well in a month or two without special care. The writer believes it would be a mistake to invariably keep these children at home and put them to bed, but over-exertion should be carefully guarded against.

The writer also believes that much of the cardiac dilatation which was often seen in the first few weeks after leaving the hospital could have been avoided by more intelligent restraint of these children at home. Even the milder cases should be carefully watched, and whatever causes shortness of breath, pallor or fatigue, or affects the heart unfavorably by notably increasing the pulse-rate, causing irregularity or any increase in the cardiac area, should at once be stopped, whether it consists of running, walking, playing, or even in simply being out of bed. The heart must be given abundant opportunity to rest and recover its normal function. This is the only conservative treatment and the only way to avoid permanent damage to the heart in some instances.

All the severe cases require rest in bed and careful watching of the heart for months or years afterward.