

dose of senna there was often blood present. In other respects, the motions were normal, and they were not too frequent. On those days on which the membranes were being passed, she was very restless at night, but she complained of no pain in the belly or elsewhere. Under treatment, the membrane became thinner and less frequent, and by the beginning of July it had ceased to appear, and the child was perfectly well. She remained so for more than four months.

Second Attack.—Towards the end of November the mother again noticed the presence of "skin" in the motions, the child seeming quite well at the time. Soon after this the child began to be irritable, and restless in sleep—crying out, grinding her teeth, throwing off the bedclothes, and turning round and round. In other respects she was well, running about through the day, and not complaining of any chilliness, or any pain, excepting slight headache. The membrane was generally present in the motions on two days in the week, sometimes only on one. While it was present the child had a good deal of tenesmus, and often went to stool without passing anything. This symptom was not noticed on the intervening days, during which no membrane was seen. The motions, themselves, were usually normal, but sometimes loose; and after a purgative there was often blood. Micturition was normal. Before treatment, the membrane was passed about every four days generally; soon after, it was only seen every ten days or fortnight; and the intervals got larger until January 31st, when it appeared for the last time. The child's health improved steadily, and up to the present time (14th September) she has remained quite well.

The Membrane had the appearance of that met with in croup. Some of the thicker pieces were composed distinctly of two layers. During the earlier weeks of the attack when it was thicker, it was often passed in the form of an entire tube sheathing the formed feces. At other times, and always latterly, it was more or less torn up during passage. Under the microscope it was found to be composed of a glassy-looking matrix in which were imbedded at pretty regular intervals numerous fatty-degenerated epithelial cells and leucocytes, and which contained innumerable microorganisms of various forms and sizes. Dr. Noel Paton kindly

analyzed the membrane for me, and found that it was composed mainly of fibrin.

Treatment.—In both attacks a mixture containing nux vomica, bicarbonate of soda and gentian was given, and a few doses of grey powder and rhubarb. This seemed to have a favourable influence on the disease, for on both occasions on which it was used it was followed within a few days by diminution in the thickness and amount of the membrane, and by distinct improvement in all the symptoms.—JOHN THOMSON, M.D., in *Archives of Pediatrics*.

A Fever Enunciator.—The Paris correspondent of the *Lancet* describes an electrical system, recently invented, to be used in a hospital ward in much the same way as an automatic fire-alarm system in a mill. Each patient is to have in his axilla an apparatus connected with an electric enunciator, which rings an alarm if the temperature rises above a certain point. *American Practitioner and News*.

Cold Mustard Baths in Whooping-Cough.—Springer (*Sem. Med.*, November 1st) has used cold baths in whooping-cough with success in the case of an infant, aged one month, on the tenth day of the disease. For 48 hours the child had had the look of a corpse; it was motionless and could not swallow, and breathing was sometimes almost imperceptible. The child was plunged into a bath at a temperature of 37° C., to which two handfuls of mustard had been added: it was left in this for three minutes. As soon as it was placed in the bath the child's skin became red, and it began to cry, and when taken out of the water it took the breast greedily. An hour later, the torpor having returned, the child was again put in a bath, the temperature of which was two degrees lower than before, with an equally good result. The baths were then given regularly every two hours, the temperature of the water being steadily reduced by two degrees each time, so that on the third day it was as low as 18° C. When taken out the baby was always wrapped up in a thick layer of cotton wool, the whole being covered with a linen coverlet. Under this treatment the child gained strength and seemed to be recovering, when the parents took it upon themselves to put him once