

to the opinion that, if not in spirit, at least in letter, the action taken was unconstitutional; but would add to this the conviction that the character of the clause of the constitution dealing with elections is of such a nature as to be sadly in need of alteration, and which, if allowed to stand, is certain to lead to further trouble in the future. The Committee on Nominations, so the clause reads, must have the names of candidates whom any member may wish to propose for an office, submitted to them for consideration. The committee brings in a report which is as usual a majority report, and any candidate dropped by this committee is, we think, thrown out; since after the report has been submitted, *the Society may proceed to elect*. We suppose it competent for the Society not to accept the report and refer it back to the committee, but if that committee choose not to report this or that name, the election is blocked according to the constitution as it stands. The rump of a committee in this case did bring in a report with the name of another candidate; but the facts that this was at a last session when few members were present, and as stated, the committee only small, were, as might be expected, sure to cause trouble. It has been made abundantly manifest that the constitution is defective in making it difficult to have the Association, as the final popular tribunal express its wishes, except by a circumlocutory process, and we trust that it will be as soon as possible altered so that in open session other names may be presented to the Association in addition to such an one as may be the choice of the committee.

#### THERAPEUTICS OF DIPHTHERIA.

MUCH has been written on the above subject and much might well, it seems to us, have been left unwritten; but the preeminent importance of the subject causes us to refer with very great pleasure to an address on this subject, read before the Philadelphia County Medical Society, by A. Jacobi, M.D., of New York. We have referred before now, both by notes and editorials, to the first fact which Jacobi refers to, and it is one which, even yet, a certain class of older practitioners seem very loath to accept. He says: "Diphtheria is a contagious disease. Severe forms may beget severe or mild forms. Mild cases may beget mild or severe cases. What has been called follicular amygdalitis (or tonsillitis)

is diphtheria in many, perhaps most instances. It is seldom dangerous to the patient, because the tonsils have but very little lymph communication with the rest of the body. But the diphtheria variety of follicular tonsillitis is also contagious. This mild variety is that from which adults are apt to suffer. . . . With this variety the adult is in the street, in business, in the school-room, in the railroad car, in the kitchen and nursery. With this variety parents, while complaining of a slightly sore throat, kiss their children." The following quotation we conceive to be of the greatest importance, and recommend it to our many readers who may have been in doubt as to their duty in such a case:—"Wherever it is suspected it ought to be looked after. Where it is seen, it ought to be isolated and treated, less perhaps for those who are sick, than of those who are in serious danger of being infected. This is the more necessary, as this form is apt to last long and give rise to repeated attacks. But it is not only the mild variety that is likely to last long. Serious undoubted cases are also apt to last for weeks, and some of them for months. As long as they do persist they are contagious. These reminiscences and quotations from former writings must justify the preeminent place I claim for preventive treatment." The writer thereafter discusses most thoroughly and practically the isolation treatment of cases of the disease and, we notice with delight, refers to a suggestion of his before the New York State Medical Society, at its meeting in 1882, which has resulted in the William Parker Hospital of New York, for the benefit of those suffering from diphtheria and scarlatina. "The erection of a sufficient number of temporary houses would be a still greater blessing to the poor and a greater protection to the public at large. Surveillance of all persons, especially children, who have been exposed to the disease should be carried out." Regarding the dangers to the public, he remarks: "In times of an epidemic every public house, theatre, ball-room, dining-hall, and tavern ought to be treated like a hospital. Where there is a large conflux of people there are certainly many who carry the disease. . . . Livery stable keepers, who would be anxious to destroy the germs of small-pox in their coaches, must learn that diphtheria is as dangerous a passenger as variola, and what is correct in the case of a poor hack is more so in that of a railroad car, whether emigrant or