

When a case was declared free from disease the house and all clothing were disinfected with formaline.

During the epidemic a case broke out in the Orphans' Home. The patient was isolated, and the throats of the twenty-two others were regularly gargled and sprayed with formaline solution. About the same time another case was reported in a family of ten small children. At that time we had no hospital for contagious diseases, and there was little hope of carrying out any effective isolation in this case, but treatment similar to that adopted in the Orphans' Home was followed by the sanitary inspectors in charge, with the gratifying result that in neither place a second case occurred. These results encouraged the Board to continue the fight, but yet, in spite of all efforts, cases continued to develop with persistent regularity.

In one room of a ward school a swab was taken from the throat of each scholar present. The scholars were, to all appearances, in perfectly sound condition, but some were returned diphtheria, and one in the meantime had developed the disease.

This proved that not only were the mild cases prolonging the epidemic—a fact long recognized by the Board—but also that the contagion was carried around in the throats of perfectly healthy persons, ready to take effect whenever the vitality became impaired, or to be transmitted to others as chance and circumstance offered. The Board recommended, as a gargle and mouth-wash, the use of formaline solution—one part in from 50 to 100 parts of water—to be used three or four times daily by all persons exposed to contagion; and it was felt that, were it possible to bring about its general use in this way, the town could be freed from the scourge in two weeks' time.

The disease spread beyond our limits to the neighboring town of Waterloo, and to the township adjoining, but acting in concert with the local boards, and freely using our disinfecting apparatus, the disease was finally overcome. In all, we had for the year ending December 11th, 1897, nearly two hundred reported cases, the majority occurring in the last four months.

To the free use which was made of antitoxin was attributed the low death-rate of less than 9 per cent.

In December of the same year, a case of scarlet fever was reported. The family was quarantined, but in spite of all precautionary measures a case occurred next door. This was a puzzler to the Board, but it was eventually solved by the discovery that the culprit was a stray kitten belonging to the family in quarantine.

Later on another case broke out, and though the disease was