

The absence of knee-jerk noted by Dr. MacDonnell, of Montreal, is also a symptom of diphtheria; but, gentlemen, I think you will agree with me in saying that by careful observation of general prominent symptoms we can always be certain of our diagnosis without being too scientific. In private practice parents, as a rule, do not look favourably upon too much handling of young children, and here I may state in this connection that we should always use very gentle means in examining diphtheritic throats in children, as death has been known to follow rough handling on more than one occasion.

Loeffler says four weeks should elapse from the beginning of the attack until children return to school, but each case must be judged upon its own merits; the only safe way is to ascertain the absence of bacteria, see that all clothing has been thoroughly disinfected, and the child perfectly clean. If a nursing infant contracts diphtheria it should be weaned.

Welehr says that although diphtheritic bacilli form no spores they withstand for a long time drying and other influences which are fatal to less resisting forms of bacteria. Specific bacilli have been obtained in cultures made from diphtheritic membranes preserved dry in a piece of linen cloth for five months. They may live still longer in a moist state and the virus may retain its activity for a year or more in damp situations. Anything to which the diphtheritic membrane can adhere may be the means of spreading the infection.

Paralysis is by far the most important of the sequelæ of diphtheria; it can be experimentally produced by inoculation and occurs more frequently in adults than in children. It occurs in a variable proportion of cases ranging from 10 to 15 and even 20 per cent. It comes on usually in the second or third week of convalescence, sometimes as early as the eighth day of the disease.

The affection, says Dr. Osler, is a toxic neuritis due to the absorption of the poisonous toxalbumin, and like other forms of multiple neuritis has an extremely complex symptomatology according to the nerves which are affected. The paralysis may be local or general; of the local form the most common is that