

physicians from the various States and Canada; 942 cases were reported by Dr. H. M. Biggs as treated in the tenements of New York by the Board of Health, and 1,468 cases treated in their own homes, under the direction of the Chicago Board of Health.

In these statistics no cases are included in which the Tonsils alone were affected, unless the case was bacteriologically confirmed as diphtheria, by the presence of the Klebs-Loeffler Bacillus. The larynx was affected either alone or in conjunction with Tonsils, Pharynx or Nose in 1,256 of the 3,384 cases reported from private practice, a percentage of 37.5, which is higher than the usual average.

In the entire number of cases a bacteriological examination confirmatory of the disease was made in over 85%. The remainder were almost certainly Diphtheria, as all doubtful cases were excluded (clinically).

In the 5,794 cases there were 713 deaths, a mortality rate of 12.3%; but of these deaths, 218 were either moribund at time of use of serum or died within 24 hours after receiving it. Excluding these cases we have a death rate of but 8.8%. This report strongly emphasizes the necessity for the early use of the serum, though its use by no means is contra-indicated later in the disease. We find that in those cases, 4,120 in number, inoculated within the first three days, presented a mortality rate of 7.3 per cent., or excluding the moribund cases and cases dying within 24 hours of inoculation, a death rate of but 4.8%. Of those inoculated on or after the fourth day (1,674 cases) the death rate was 24.5%, or excluding moribund cases, 18%; these last figures approximate the usual death rate without antitoxin. [See Table I.]

This report shows that the highest mortality was in children under 2 years of age, being 19.2 per cent when the moribund cases are excluded—23.3% including these. "After the second year there is noticed a steady decline in mortality up to adult life. In many of the reports previously published the statement has been made that no striking improvement in results was observed in adult cases treated by the serum. Our figures strongly contradict this opinion, of 359 cases over fifteen years of age there were but 13 deaths." [See Table II.]

As regards the use of the serum in laryngeal cases we again quote the words of the report: "In establishing the value of the serum, nothing has been so convincing as the ability of antitoxin, properly administered, to check the rapid spreading of membrane downward in the respiratory tract, as is attested by the observations of more than 350 physicians who have sent us reports." Thus in the 1,256 laryn-