

of drinking vessels, spoons, etc. Attached by a chain to the well in question was a metal cup for the use of the children, and to this cup I incline to attribute the spread of the infection. That the water had nothing to do with it may be inferred from its character and from the immunity of households in the village using it. The infection may of course have been spread by mere proximity of child to child in school, or by kissing. I am not prepared to deny this, but, considering the peculiar facility for transmission of diphtheria virus by drinking-vessels, and the fact, *quantum valeat*, that the schoolmaster's family, who mixed with the children, but did not, I was informed, use the cup, escaped. I think the explanation I have given a very probable one.

I believe, indeed, that the actual medium of infection among school children is very commonly some spout or drinking-vessel to which they apply their mouths one after another.

In the Herald of Health, Dr. W. J. Chenoweth refers to the spread of disease by kissing. He mentions a case in which a woman suckled a child affected with diphtheria. In consequence, her own child, which was nursing at the same time, contracted labial diphtheria, and communicated it to the mother, "who frequently kissed her infant." This disease he continues is not more readily conveyed than scarlet fever, measles, small pox, typhoid fever, or any other specific fever. But it is not to any of them I wish particularly to call attention, but to *syphilis*, the silent and fearful monster which has already invaded the majority of households, in civilized communities; and which, though not floating in the air, nor carried by the breath, is being constantly propagated by inoculation from the saliva of persons having mucous

patches in their mouths, or ulcers on their lips. The January number of the *Am. Jour. of Medical Sciences* for 1878 contains a report of twenty-two cases of persons who had been tattooed by one James Kelly, who had mucous patches in his mouth; of these, fifteen contracted syphilis, evidently from the needles used having been moistened with saliva during the operation. Men employed as glass blowers pass the blow-pipe from one to another, and so frequently do they become poisoned from mucous patches in the mouths of one of the workmen that it is necessary to have separate mouth-pieces for every one employed. It is not unusual to find in medical journals and text-books, notes, such as follows: "A young man brought his sweetheart to be treated for a hard, excoriated, globular lump upon her lip, which failed to get well under assiduous care during many weeks. It got well promptly under treatment for syphilis." "The gentleman had mucous patches in his mouth." "Within the last eighteen months I have met with four cases where there was undoubted proof of the acquirement of syphilis through mediate contagion. One, a young lady, with the initial lesion on the lower lip, acquired from her lover's kiss."

Prof. Segmund, of Vienna, saw seventy-three cases of syphilis of the lips, between 1861 and 1867, and they were not confined to the substratum of society, but were in all ranks. The causes assigned were pipes, drinking vessels, kissing, and similar means.

If then syphilis, and diseases of a specific nature, can be communicated by kissing, is it just to suffer our children to be kissed by any nurse, or other person, how well disposed they may be? Is it proper for a woman to be subjected to the