

## THE CAUSE OF DEATH AT THE SEVERAL EPOCHS.

In infancy, diseases of the brain and nervous system—notably convulsions—rank first among the causes of death; diseases of the lungs have the second place, and diarrheal diseases the third.

From the end of the first year of life to the end of the fifth—that is to say, in early childhood—the infectious diseases, especially scarlet fever and whooping-cough, give rise to the greatest mortality; then, as in infancy, next in order of mortality at this period of life come lung-diseases; and third, the diarrheal diseases.

In childhood and early youth (five to fifteen years) the infectious diseases are the chief causes of mortality, principally scarlet fever and continued fevers.

From youth to manhood (fifteen to twenty-five years) phthisis is the most important cause of death, and the infectious diseases sink to the second place.

In early manhood (twenty-five to thirty-five years) phthisis still maintains the first rank among the causes of death; but a marked increase of mortality is now observed from other diseases of the lungs. The infectious diseases continue to hold the second rank among the causes of death at this period of life.

In manhood and maturity (thirty-five to fifty-five years) phthisis maintains its predominance among the causes of death, but now the mortality from other diseases of the lungs becomes largely augmented. The second place in the order of causes of death at this period of life is taken by diseases of local origin, especially local affections of the brain and nervous system, of the heart and blood-vessels, and of the digestive organs. Cancer now becomes an important source of mortality, but the infectious diseases sink to a comparatively low place among the causes of death.

In the decline of life (fifty-five to seventy-five years) the diseases of local origin, including diseases of the lungs, are the chief causes of death; phthisis, the infectious diseases, and general diseases, as a rule, except cancer, becoming relatively less predominant. At this period of life, indeed, the causes of death foreshadow the more general decay of old age (seventy-five and upward), where death, if it does not arise from the natural inability of the several organs, in the progress of decay, to continue their functions, unaffected by exterior circumstances, is mainly brought about by local accidents of the brain and nervous system, the heart and blood-vessels, irredeemably damaged in the course of the decay.

The progress of fatal disease through the several periods of life has, in fact, characteristic relations with the natural conditions of the body at the different periods. The fatal diseases of infancy are significant of the immaturity and

mobility of the infants' organs and functions. The fatal diseases of childhood relate, not so much to states of the system then in fullest vigor of vital re-action (to inherent conditions of the body, so to speak), and to the influence of the media in which we live, as to the accidental liability of exposure to morbid agencies current among populations, such as the contagions of the catching diseases; as, for example, scarlet fever, small-pox, measles, typhus, etc. With the completion of manhood, diseases indicative of local degenerations of tissue begin to be predominant, and with each successive stage of life this predominance becomes more marked. In old age the degenerative changes, which at earlier periods of life are regarded as the signs of disease, now appear as the natural consequences of decay; and death becomes a physiological not a pathological fact—as the determination of a natural life, not as the premature close of a life cut short by disease.—*Ext. from Health Primer—Premature Death.*

## TO MASK THE ODOR OF IODOFORM.

Tannin, which was recommended by Moleschott as a means of hiding the unpleasant smell of iodoform, has not been wholly successful; ether, which conceals the odor, on account of its great volatility is only useful for a short time; while oil of peppermint has not answered to its expectations. Dr. Lindemann, of Munster, contributes to the *Allg. Med. Central Zeitung* an account of experiments which he has made with several preparations in regard to this subject. The conclusion at which he has arrived is that the balsam of Peru completely masks the smell of iodoform, and renders it imperceptible to the most delicately organized. He mixes two parts of the balsam with one part of iodoform, and recommends vaselin as being the best medium for an anguent; it may also be employed in an aqueous solution. The following useful formulæ are subjoined:

R Iodoform,.....	1 gram;
Bals. peruv.,.....	2 grams;
Vaselin,.....	8 grams;
M. f. ungt.	
R Iodoform,.....	1 gram;
Bals. peruv.,.....	3 grams;
Spir. vin. rectific. or glycerin,...	12 grams.

In regard to the preparation of these prescriptions, the author recommends that the iodoform should first be mixed with the balsam, and that the vehicle should afterward be added.

## THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC ECZEMA.

Avoid the use of soap, as this is irritating. Twice a day, bathe the part in an aqueous solution