

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Precautions to be used in cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria:

Scarlet fever and diphtheria are always lurking about at this season in more or less virulent form. To mothers and those in charge of young children, a few hints may be timely. Scarlet fever is communicated by the minute particles of skin which flake off during the convalescing process, and there is always danger until every particle of this cuticle has been shed. Whenever scarlet fever is suspected, isolate the patient and attendant, and let there be no contact with the other members of the family until the physician has pronounced the case fully cured. Do not let even a cat or dog or bird be in the room. If it be possible let the attendant perform all the work of the sick room. Have a plentiful supply of strong solution of carbolic acid, one part pure carbolic acid and three parts water. Keep an atomizer constantly filled with it. If a carpet be on the floor of the sick room, let it be sprinkled frequently with the carbolic acid also the bed coverings the dress of the attendant the walls and every article of furniture. Let no dishes or trays leave the room until they have been brought under the carbolic spray. All articles to be washed should be laid in water to which the carbolic solution has been added before they are given to the laundress and they should be washed alone. After attending to the patient the hands should be washed in carbolic water, and the clothing of the physician should be sprinkled before he leaves the room, the spray from the atomizer being so fine it will not injure any fabric or cause any inconvenience. When the patient leaves the room, have everything that can be washed, thoroughly cleared with the carbolic solution; then fumigate closets and wardrobes and the room or rooms with roll brimstone. Every window must be made airtight and keyholes stopped with cotton. Two pounds of sulphur roll, will be sufficient for a large room and a small quantity for a closet or a wardrobe. All jewelry and metal ornaments should be removed before the fumigation is begun, as the fumes of sulphur oxidize metals. Place the sulphur in a flower pot saucer, which may be set upon a brick to prevent any danger from fire. Open all bureau drawers all books and boxes, and take the mattresses from the bedstead, so the sulphur fumes may permeate everything in the room. Leave the room unopened for three or four days, then air thoroughly. Too great care cannot be exercised in the fumigation. The germs of scarlet fever are carried in books, toys, garments and by animals. In short, everything upon which a bit of sea skin can rest is a vehicle for the transmission of the disease. I know of a case in which scarlet fever was communicated by a book which had been in an infected room and had not been fumigated. The child who brought the book home was attacked by the fever in a severe form. He underwent an isolation of six weeks, during which time the

only communication that the mother, who was his nurse, had with the rest of the family was through a window, the person who came to converse or receive orders being first well sprinkled with carbolic acid as well as the mother. None of the other members of the family contracted the disease. Years ago, before carbolic acid was discovered and before so great precautions were taken, a celebrated physician had his two children ill with scarlet fever. The toys with which they played were put away unfumigated. Five years later these toys were taken from the closet in which they had remained, and were given to two children who had come to visit at her house. These children were attacked with scarlet fever, although there were no cases in the physician's practice, nor in that of his colleagues. The cause of the infection was then suspected and the toys promptly burned. This illustrates the length of time the germs remain virulent. In diphtheria, the same rules are to be observed. It is a safeguard to place carbolic acid in vessels about the hall through which the attendant has to pass thereby greatly lessening the chances of contagion. Above all things attend carefully to the directions of the physician. Write down all that he orders, so there can be no mistake. In severe cases where there is no trained nurse, keep a record of the changes so that the doctor may know what has taken place during his absence.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

Cases of infection that could be accounted for in no other way have been explained by the fingers as a vehicle. In handling money, especially of paper, door knobs, banisters, car straps, and a hundred things that every one must touch, there are chances innumerable of picking up germs of typhoid, scarlatina, diphtheria, small pox, &c. Yet some persons actually put such things in their mouths, if not too large! Before eating, or touching that which is to be eaten the hands should be immediately and thoroughly washed. We hear much about general cleanliness as next to godliness. It may be added that here, in particular it is also a matter of health and safety. The Jews made no mistake in that except they washed they ate not. It was a sanitary ordinance as well as an ordinance of decency.—*Sanitary Era.*



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