

is but the expression of a specific morbid condition of the system, which closely resembles that present in the severer forms of Scarlet Fever. But wherein you will inquire is the resemblance? First; in scarlet fever, the tongue is covered in the middle with white mucous; the tonsils are swollen, and the throat red; so we have the same in diphtheria. It is peculiar to scarlet fever, inasmuch as the inflammation of the throat almost always runs into a state of ulceration; as far as can be seen on pressing down the tongue the throat is swollen, and of a deep florid red; and on the tonsils may be seen white or grey ulcers,—the very same in diphtheria. In Scarlet Fever Typhoid symptoms show themselves; so they do in diphtheria; thus we trace a **STRONG RESEMBLANCE**.

We have this specific morbid condition of the system also in croup. Croup is an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the larynx and wind-pipe. It causes to flow out upon the surface of the membrane a peculiar fluid, which stiffens into a membrane, or skin-like substance, and adheres to the inner surface of the wind-pipe, and sometimes extends through the whole of the Bronchial tubes. This is membranous croup,—the worst and most fatal form of the disease. But one asks, from whence does this film arise? I answer, it is formed of a congealable semi-fluid exudation from the mucous membrane itself, on being brought to the surface, and into contact with the inspired air. This substance grows thick and tough or leathery as we find it upon the mucous surfaces. The very same substance in a degree that we find in Diphtheria.

Diphtheria, then, says one of our best medical writers, is evidently a contagious epidemic, and it would not perhaps, be far out of the way to call it by either of the following names:—Epidemic Croup—Contagious Croup; Malignant Croup.

This disease is not a new one, it has existed since the Israelites left Egypt, in the year 1491, B. C. Spain, Italy, and Sicily felt its ravages in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. England, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and the United States about the middle of the eighteenth century.

Many men of this generation will not acknowledge God to be the Supreme Governor of the Universe, but regard the whole as a matter of mere chance, and tell us that disease and death are subject to no rule or law whatever, there always was just about so much disease in the world, in some form or another, and there always will be. That in particular localities, and for a time we may have fewer diseases, or they may change their appearance, or be less or more fatal, but taking a thousand years together, things remain about the same.

Now I will not stop to oppose the statements thus made, by counter statements of my own, it is, perhaps, sufficient to say