ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

plank. The plank also makes a handy place to set the pump. The unfilled portion between the well brick and earth is then filled with a cement mixture. By this means you keep out worms and soakage water.

DIPHTHERIA AND DIPHTHERIA CARRIERS.

By DR. A. H. SPEERS,

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WHEN I was asked by Dr. McCullough to prepare a paper for discussion, to be read at this convention, I scarcely knew what I could give that would be of interest, but it occurred to me that it might be interesting to the members of this convention to relate my experience with a diphtheria case some four years ago. The object of the paper being to impress on the gentlemen present the necessity of taking swabs of all suspected cases of diphtheria for diagnosis, and especially of taking two or three swabs for release, which shall be negative, before raising the quarantine. The case of which I shall give you a brief history is one in which I did not take a release swab, it being before the time when I received my appointment of Health Officer of the town of Burlington, and when in our district we relied on the clinical signs for diagnosis and of keeping the patient in four weeks before lifting the quarantine. Because the release swab was not taken I shall endeavor to point out to you the far-reaching results and the spread of diphtheria even to eight or nine months after from one case which proved to be a carrier. On the 26th day of May, 1913, I was called to see a little girl, 9 years of age, suffering from croup. I made my examination and a diagnosis of diphtheritic croup, there being a small piece of membrane on one of the tonsils. I gave her a good dose of antitoxin on the first day, and repeated it on the second day, and at the same time put her in a tent and had her steamed with vapor of lime, using a spray of peroxide of hydrogen and Wampole's Formaloid to the throat. She made a good recovery. Two weeks after her brother (grown to manhood) took diphtheria. The rest having had antitoxin as a prophylactic, he also made a good recovery.

After four weeks I fumigated the house with formaldehyde and removed the placard, to all appearances the throats of the patients looking quite normal. The little girl was outside during the summer picking fruit and playing around, and the mother was very grateful to me for my attention and that she had recovered. She returned to school in September, a short time after which there began an outbreak of diph-