

tions, softening, dilatation and debility of the heart, with general debility and collapse, and explained the occurrence of vomiting by supposing a reflex action on other branches of the vagus.

Is this cardiac failure due to change, inflammatory or degenerative, or is the one followed by the other? Is it due to changes in the spinal cord, sympathetic nerves, or cardiac ganglia? Or is it brought about by a myocarditis or a fatty degeneration of the heart-muscle? It seems to me that this question must be answered before prescribing one of our most powerful drugs, and one which has invariably been ordered by those I have met in consultation in these cases, viz., strychnia. This drug affects paralyzed muscles before healthy ones. It is a stimulant. It increases the vascular supply to the diseased parts. If the disease is inflammatory, is strychnia the proper remedy to use? If the disease is one of atrophy and degeneration, certainly it is. In the only case that recovered under my observation, strychnia was given early and in large doses, and it was continued in smaller doses for six weeks. I think it would be interesting to have from Dr. Johnson and others a description of the changes found in the cord, muscle, and peripheral and central nerves and their coats in cases dying from rapid cardiac failure. Are they cases of cardiac paralysis, or of myocarditis, or of fatty degeneration of the heart, or of myocarditis followed by fatty degeneration?

My last question is: How long children and adults exposed to the contagion should be quarantined?

One child in a family of several has diphtheria, and recovers or perhaps dies. If recovery, all nasal-pharyngeal discharges has ceased. In either case the house is disinfected, we will suppose thoroughly. I will assume, as in many cases is the case, that the well children remained all the time at home, and that the father also remained at home to assist in nursing the sick one. Now how soon after the disinfection should the children be allowed to return to school and the father to his office or shop, as the case may be. I have made it an invariable rule not to grant certificates for fifteen days after the disinfection. I do this on the ground that cases are on record of children having been exposed to the contagion of diphtheria and only developed