

Abstracts.

DIPHTHERIA.

Ware, E. E.—*Case of Diphtheria of the Vulva.* "The Lancet," February 10, 1900.

The diagnosis of diphtheria is always much facilitated by the identification of the bacillus, and when also paralysis supervenes the diagnosis is certain. It is a little remarkable in this case that, although the diphtheritic patch was situated on the vulva, the muscles first paralyzed were those of the palate, but the same combination has been noticed before. The explanation is probably to be found in the fact that even slight paresis of the palate muscles would be noticeable long before the same amount of weakness in the leg muscles would become evident. For a similar reason strabismus is often a very early sign of diphtheria. The local antiseptic treatment of diphtheritic patches on external parts of the body is always advisable, though when the palate is affected the harm which the child suffers from fear and struggling probably outweighs the benefit which might result from the antiseptics. The antiseptic employed, however, should not be very strong, otherwise the damage to the tissues may weaken their power of resistance.

In the case recorded white patches were found on the vulva, and the Klebs-Löffler bacillus was isolated. Under 2,000 units of anti-diphtheritic serum, the symptoms quickly abated, but were followed by paralysis of the soft palate, and regurgitation of fluids through the nose. Recovery was complete. There is no doubt that this was a case of true diphtheria of the vulva, for even had there been no bacteriological examination, the onset of paralysis of the soft palate may be taken as sufficient proof. The symptoms were misleading, and pointed to the probability of stone in the bladder, this being the commonest cause of severe pain on micturition in a child, and it was thought that the local redness was due to handling in consequence of reflex irritation.

St. Clair Thomson.

MOUTH, Etc.

Connell, J. C.—*The Cure of Stammering and Stuttering.* "Kingston Medical Quarterly."

Connell, like Hudson Makuen of Philadelphia, believes that the proper line of treatment in these cases is a combination of gymnastic and didactic methods—the one to invigorate the entire system, the respiratory organs in particular; the other to establish by teaching methods the correct co-ordination of the functions of respiration, phonation and articulation.

Treatment should always begin with exercises in breathing. Then should follow systematic exercises in vocal gymnastics. Some persons require for a time the constant control of the voice specialist, whilst others, after being taught the nature of the defect and the principles involved, can, by intelligent and persevering practice, soon learn to speak in the new and normal way without the assistance of a tutor.

Price Brown.