

or four times a day, the singer who is affected with hoarseness is often enabled to utter clear tones ; at the same time he must not neglect the other therapeutical means which, by themselves, are so often known to fail.

It is understood that the instructor, whether physician or professor of singing, must assure himself that the patient has acquired the exact method before being left to himself, and this is on the whole fairly easy. An indiscreet excess of zeal, however, may bring about results which are negative, or even injurious, if from want of intelligence or of instruction the patient forces the voice by mere effort instead of by the exercise of the knack so well described by Curtis, and which I have here endeavoured to explain. I might cite a number of cases in which this method has given results which have proved its value, including singers in synagogues and churches, choristers, actors, and other voice-users, where contrary to all expectation it has sometimes been possible to continue their professional work under circumstances where previous experience would have negated this possibility.

In recommending the use of these exercises in morbid conditions of the larynx, I do not wish to trench in any respect on the province of the teacher of singing, and I offer it simply as the therapeutical application to diseases of the larynx of a fact derived from an elementary consideration of the physiology of the voice.

ABSTRACTS.

DIPHThERIA, &C.

The Increase of Diphtheria in London. "Lancet," August 14, 1897.

It is a most lamentable fact that with all our outlay on sanitation in London the disease of diphtheria steadily goes on increasing in prevalence. The disease is five times more fatal at present than scarlet fever, in spite of the reduction in the death rate effected by the antitoxin treatment. The subject requires close investigation, and it is suggested that an important point would be earlier diagnosis and treatment.

StClair Thomson.

The Standardizing of Antitoxins. "Lancet," August 14, 1897.

THE "Lancet" has from time to time (*vide* JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, Vol. XI., 1896, p. 294) insisted most strongly that some means should be provided whereby antitoxins supplied for the treatment of diphtheria and tetanus, especially the former, should be tested and standardized before passing into the hands of those who are to use them. The Government decline to interfere in the matter, maintaining that it has to do with the prevention of disease and not with its treatment. The "Lancet" therefore hears with satisfaction that the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Surgeons of England are making arrangements to test any antitoxin that may be sent to them, and send out with such antitoxin a certificate of strength and purity.

StClair Thomson.