

from the loss of other fluids, give *China* two or three times a day until strength is restored. *Carbo veg.* and *Nux vomica* are also useful in such cases. When caused by fright, fear, grief, or other mental emotions, and *Camphor* does not relieve the symptoms, give *Ignatia* or *Coffea*. If, when the disease has been caused by mental emotions, there is faintness during every attempt to raise the head, give *Opium* once in six hours, afterwards *Aconite*, if it is needed. If it is caused by violent pain, give *Aconite* or *Chamomilla*.

GOITRE—BRONCHOCELE.

This is an enlargement of the thyroid gland, which causes a swelling on the lower part of the neck, in front, just above the breastbone. The gland lies upon both sides of the trachea or windpipe; the two sides connecting by a thin portion, or bridge, extending over the latter organ. The enlargement may involve the whole gland, or it may be confined to one side, or even to the connecting portion in front of the windpipe. The cause or causes of this disease are unknown.

Treatment.—Give a dose of *Spongia* every night, and continue it for two or three months; rub hard and press the swelling frequently. If the above does not cure it, obtain at a Homœopathic Pharmacy, or at a Druggist's, one grain of Iodine and two grains of Iodide of Potassa, and dissolve them in one ounce of water, and give one drop of the solution in water, or on sugar, night and morning. Also obtain one drachm of Iodide of Potassa, and dissolve it in a pint of water, and every night wet a few thicknesses of cotton or linen cloth in it, and lay over the swelling, then cover well with dry flannel. Dr. E. R. Ellis, of Detroit, formerly a student of the author's, reports having cured several cases of Goitre by means of mechanical pressure. For this purpose an elastic band or rubber, of from one-half to two and a half inches in width, is passed around the neck and over the swelling, and gradually tightened, but only to a degree that will neither render it uncomfortable nor cause fulness of the head.

CHAPTER V.

DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

DISEASES of the mouth, teeth, and throat, will be considered first, with the exception of the thrush, which will be left for the chapter on diseases of children.

CANKER OF THE MOUTH (CANCNUM ORIS).

With many individuals, while in comparative good health, occasionally a slight roughness and soreness will appear on the inside of the cheeks, on the gums, or on or beneath the tongue, followed by a small ulcer or two in the course of twenty-four hours. This is a slight disease, and of little consequence. A dose of *Mercurius viv.* two or three times a day will generally suffice to cure it soon; and the alternate use of *Mercurius viv.* and *Sulphur*, once or twice a week will tend to prevent a return of the ulcers. But the disease denominated cancrum oris, is a much more formidable and troublesome affection. It generally attacks children or young persons, and most frequently those who are ill-fed and live in damp and dark habitations. It is therefore found among the rich who feed their children on the miserable bread which superfine flour makes, and keep them in dark-curtained or shaded rooms; and also among the poor, such as lack proper food, and live in dark cellars and hovels.

Symptoms.—The mucous membrane covering the sides of the tongue, and inside of the cheeks, becomes red and inflamed, and afterwards covered with large ulcers, which may extend so as to cover both sides of the tongue, from near the tip to its roots, and also the inside of the cheeks. The tongue becomes swollen, showing upon its sides indentations caused by the teeth; there is a pro-

fuse secretion of saliva or spittle, the breath is offensive, and eating and swallowing difficult; gradual emaciation ensues. This disease may last for weeks or months if not properly treated, and even cause death.

Treatment.—First of all the child requires fresh air and sunlight, and next suitable food, milk thickened with coarse flour (the second and third runnings), a thin pudding made of the same, beef-tea, mashed potatoes, and, as soon as the patient can chew it, beef or mutton.

Mercurius viv.: This is perhaps the most important remedy, and a dose may be given once in six hours.

Nux vom.: If *Mercurius* fails, in the course of a few days, to cause an improvement of the symptoms, give *Nux vom.* alternately with it three hours apart; and these remedies should be continued at least ten days or two weeks, unless the symptoms get worse under their use.

Arsenicum may follow the above remedies if necessary, or it may take the place of them at the commencement of the treatment, when there is much burning pain and the breath is very offensive. Give a dose once in six hours, and continue it as long as any improvement follows. *Carbo veg.* may be given after *Arsenicum* if necessary. *Hepar sulph.* is sometimes useful, especially if the patient has ever been salivated, or taken large doses of calomel or blue pills. If the above remedies do not cure the disease, get at a druggist's one grain of *Iodine* and two grains of *Iodide of potassium*, put both into an ounce bottle of water and drop three drops of the solution thus formed, into a glass of water and give a teaspoonful from the glass to the patient once in six hours.

Washes are of very little use, and aside from washing the mouth frequently with tepid water, it is better to shun them.

NURSING SORE MOUTH.

A peculiar form of sore mouth frequently attacks females, either during nursing, or during the latter months of pregnancy. It commences with bright redness of the edges, upper and under sur-

face of the tongue, and inner surface of the cheeks, which gradually extends to the throat, with a burning, smarting, and sore sensation. All hot or stimulating substances, salt, and acids, taken into the mouth, aggravate the sufferings. After a few days, small whitish vesicles or pimples make their appearance on the edges of the tongue or beneath it, which may after a time degenerate into ulcers. If the disease is not checked, it gradually extends to the stomach, and there is burning at the stomach and tenderness, with perhaps nausea and vomiting; and at last the same burning sensation extends to the bowels, and exhausting diarrhoea takes the place of the costiveness which existed while the disease was confined to the stomach. The blood becomes watery and the countenance pale, a hoarse loose cough sometimes sets in, and the vital powers are gradually exhausted, and the patient dies if not rescued by treatment.

Treatment.—At the commencement of the disease, while it is confined to the mouth, give *Belladonna* once in two hours, but if it involves the mouth and stomach, before there is diarrhoea, give *Belladonna* alternately with *Nux vomica* two hours apart. These remedies will rarely fail to relieve at this stage. The disease is one of debility, therefore give meat and a nourishing diet.

If ulcers make their appearance, and the above remedies do not relieve them, give *Mercurius viv.* once in two hours.

If the burning extends to the bowels, and a diarrhoea ensues, give *Mercurius*; if at the end of two or three days there is no relief, give *Sulphur* once in two hours, and continue it as long as there is any improvement. If these remedies fail to relieve, give *Arsenicum* once in two hours. If there is acid vomiting with diarrhoea, *Pulsatilla* is sometimes useful. When there is great debility with diarrhoea, *China* alternately with *Arsenicum* two hours apart, will often benefit the patient. Call on a homœopathic physician.

Weaning the child will generally cure the disease if it is not delayed too long; but it can generally be cured by homœopathic remedies without weaning, but not always without too great a risk.

SALIVATION.

(MERCURIAL INFLAMMATION OF THE MOUTH.)

This disease may be caused by calomel, blue pills, or any of the preparations of mercury, when they are given in large doses. It may also be caused by rubbing mercurial ointment on the external surface of the body.

Symptoms.—Metallic or coppery taste, increased flow of saliva, swelling of the gums, and soreness when pressed, and tenderness of the teeth when striking them together, are among the first symptoms. Then follows stiffness about the jaws, and the teeth feel elongated, and the gums, palate, tongue, glands beneath the ears and jaws, become swollen and painful. There is frequently toothache, pains in the jaws, ulcers on the inner surface of the cheeks, or on the lips, throat, and gums. The teeth become loose, and sometimes there is sloughing and exposure of the jaw.

Treatment.—Give *Hepar sulph.* once in three or four hours. If there is much pain give *Belladonna* alternately with it two hours apart. *Sulphur* may follow the above remedies, and may be given two or three times a day. This remedy and *Hepar sulph.* are the most important remedies to cure the chronic effects which often follow the abuse of mercury. For this purpose give one every night for a week, then the other, and change every week. *Nitric acid* is also a valuable remedy to counteract the poisonous action of mercury. It may be given once in six hours. It may be given instead of *Hepar* at the commencement of the attack if no improvement follows the use of the latter remedy.

GANGRENOUS INFLAMMATION OF THE MOUTH.

This is not a very frequent disease, and generally, but not always, occurs during childhood, and when the system is debilitated by bad air, unwholesome food, or by some febrile or inflammatory disease, such as typhoid fever, measles, inflammation of the lungs, dysentery, &c.

Symptoms.—It attacks the inside of the cheeks, lips, or gums. If the cheek or lip is attacked, the first symptom generally noticed is a white swelling on the external surface of the cheek, generally near the angle of the mouth, or on the lip, which looks as though the part had been varnished. If when this swelling is noticed the inside of the cheek or lip is examined, there will be found a grayish or ash-colored spot opposite the swelling, which is the beginning of gangrene. If this disease is not checked soon, the mortification extends more or less rapidly through the cheek, or lip, until a dark spot appears upon the external surface, which spreads rapidly until much of the cheek is destroyed, or the patient dies. If the disease commences on the gums it is generally between the lower front teeth, although it may commence at other points, over the upper or lower jaw, and the ash-colored spot appears on the gums, preceded by slight swelling, and the disease soon penetrates the bony structure, and if the patient lives, portions of the jaw-bone, and more or less of the teeth, die, and after a time are separated from the living structure, often causing much deformity. The disease is not painful, and there is very little soreness. There is sometimes slight febrile excitement as the gangrene progresses, and diarrhoea is apt to supervene, followed by great debility, cold extremities, and death.

Treatment.—My experience has satisfied me that it will not generally do to rely entirely on internal remedies, in the treatment of this disease. We must apply locally a homœopathic remedy of sufficient strength to change the diseased action in the part, or serious deformity, if not death, will be very likely to result. Touch the gray or ash-colored spot on the inside of the cheek or lip, or on the gums, with a stick of *Nitrate of silver*, bring it in contact with the entire dead surface, and touch lightly the healthy surface for the eighth of an inch around the diseased part; then let the patient rinse his mouth with warm water. Repeat the application if necessary once at the end of twenty-four hours. *Sulphate of copper* or *Blue vitriol*, will do quite as well as *Nitrate of silver*. Dissolve a piece as large as a small pea in a teaspoonful of warm water in a cup, and with a feather wash the diseased mucous membrane twice a day, until the progress of the disease is checked.

Give at the same time internally, the following remedies.
 Alternate *Carbo veg.* and *China* two hours apart. If, notwithstanding the above remedies, the disease is not soon checked, especially if diarrhoea commences, give *Arsenicum* instead of *Carbo veg.*
 The diet should be as nourishing as the stomach will bear, similar to that which was directed under the head of canker of the mouth; especially milk and beef-tea.

INFLAMMATION OF THE TONGUE (GLOSSITIS).

There are two forms of inflammation of the tongue, one superficial, and the other deep-seated. It is not uncommon, especially in children and young persons, to have an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the upper surface, edges, and end of the tongue, with intense redness, great soreness, and a profuse flow of saliva. Little white points or vesicles soon make their appearance, which form ulcers after a day or two. The disease is attended with a high fever, which is often mistaken for an attack of typhoid fever.

Nux vom. is the chief remedy for the disease described above, and the fever which attends it. Give it dissolved in water once in two hours, and a dose of *Mercurius* night and morning. If at the end of two days the disease is not almost cured give *Arsenicum* night and morning instead of *Mercurius*, and continue the *Nux vomica*.

Inflammation of the substance of the tongue is a rare, but more serious disease. It may be caused by mechanical injuries, the sting of insects, chemical agents, exposure, &c. The disease may involve but a part, or the whole of the tongue; generally if it commences in a part, the whole organ soon becomes red, swollen, and painful, and sometimes so much enlarged as to fill the entire mouth, and project beyond the teeth and lips. It may even press backwards so as to seriously obstruct respiration, and cause danger of suffocation. Speaking and swallowing become difficult, the tongue becomes dry upon the surface, or moist and covered with a thick fur. Gangrene occasionally results; sometimes matter forms, but generally the disease is cured without either. The inflammation

is attended with a high fever during its first stage; but later if respiration is obstructed, or the disease tends to gangrene, the pulse becomes small and irregular and the extremities cold.

Treatment.—If the disease has arisen from a mechanical injury, *Arnica* may be given internally and applied to the organ. One drop of the tincture in a glass of water, of which give a table-spoonful for a dose; but for a wash, one half a teaspoonful of the tincture may be put into a teacupful of water.

Aconite: This remedy may be given alternately with *Arnica* when the fever is high, or the skin hot and the pulse full.

Mercurius viv. is generally the most important remedy when the disease has neither been caused by mechanical injuries nor by taking mercury in large doses. If there is much fever, give it alternately with *Aconite*, one hour apart; and if at the end of twelve hours the patient is not better, give *Belladonna* alternately with *Mercurius viv.* instead of *Aconite*.

If the above remedies do not check the disease, but the tongue becomes dark, black, or greenish, give *Lachesis* every hour, and if it does not relieve the symptoms soon, give *Arsenicum* alternately with it one hour apart. If symptoms of suffocation occur, and they are not promptly relieved by your remedies, send immediately for a physician; if you cannot get a homœopathic physician, send for an allopathist, for it may be necessary to make an incision lengthwise on both sides of the upper surface of the tongue, so as to allow it to bleed freely, to gain time for the action of your remedies, in a very severe and sudden attack, but the remedies will rarely fail to relieve, without a resort to this severe measure.

MUMPS (PAROTITIS).

This is an inflammation of the parotid glands, which lie immediately beneath and in front of the lower part of the ears, and are among the glands which secrete the saliva. The disease is generally caused by contagion, and the same gland is rarely affected twice, but if the gland on one side only is attacked, that on the other will be liable to contract the disease on subsequent exposure.

Symptoms.—The swelling is usually preceded by a slight fever, or at least such a fever generally accompanies the inflammation. There is soreness and stiffness in the region of the swelling, with more or less difficulty of chewing and swallowing. On the fourth day the disease begins to subside, and during or after the abatement of the inflammation, it is not uncommon to have the breasts in females, or the testicles in males, become swollen and painful, and even serious inflammation of these organs may ensue.

Treatment.—Great care is requisite that the patient be not exposed to sudden changes of temperature, or to damp and cold weather, during the continuance of the mumps, and for several days after the disease has abated. It is also best to avoid active exercise, and all stimulating drinks, during the same period.

Mercurius viv. is the chief remedy, and a dose may be repeated once in two or three hours; and if there is much pain or headache, *Belladonna* may be given alternately with *Mercurius*, two hours apart. If, at the end of three or four days, the fever and swelling do not abate, omit the above remedies, and give *Carbo veg.* once in four hours.

Make no application over the swollen gland with the exception of a dry warm handkerchief, a piece of flannel, or of cotton bathing. The diet should be light and free from stimulating condiments. No animal food should be allowed.

If, at the time, or after the disease abates, the breasts become painful and inflamed, give *Belladonna* once in two hours. If the testicles become swollen and painful, give *Pulsatilla* once in two hours; and if, at the end of twelve hours, it fails to relieve the symptoms, give *Nux vom.* once in two hours. Make warm applications, and if simple hot dry cloths do not relieve, use a warm hot poultice—beans boiled soft and mashed up do well.

TOOTHACHE (ODONTALGIA).

The pain may be caused by inflammation of the nervous pulp within the teeth, or by inflammation of the socket, after the death of the nerve; or, again, the disease may be simply neuralgic, or

rheumatic, involving the nerve of one tooth or of several, and even the nerves of the jaw.

The nerve of a sound tooth sometimes, but very rarely, becomes inflamed; generally the inflammation is caused by the decay of the tooth and exposure of the nerve to the air, heat, cold, or pressure in eating. If the inflammation is not relieved, it goes on to suppuration, and matter or pus is formed, which escapes at the end of the fangs and causes inflammation of the socket. Or if the nerve of a tooth is dead, inflammation may commence in the socket and pus form there. The inflammation soon extends to the gums, and even to the cheek and lip, and they become swollen and red; the pain is severe and throbbing. The pressure caused by the accumulation of pus in the socket, either produces a loosening of the tooth which allows the matter to escape by its side between it and the gum, or it causes an absorption of the bony process over the end of the fang, which allows the pus to form an abscess at that point, where it breaks spontaneously, if not lanced, and is called a gumboil. The whole duration of the disease is usually from four to seven or eight days, and the suffering is often intense; the entire face sometimes becoming very much swollen. This disease is denominated alveolar abscess, or ague in the face, and may arise more than once from the same tooth, if it is allowed to remain in the jaw; unless, as often happens, pus continues to be secreted in the socket, and, by escaping, keeps up for years a fistulous opening—a very disagreeable and filthy disease, and one which, as a general rule, can only be cured by the removal of the offending tooth or fang.

The nerve of a tooth may become sufficiently irritated to cause severe pain, which may abate spontaneously in a few minutes or hours, and this may occur repeatedly without continuing, at any one time, until the formation of matter.

It is not uncommon to have a slow inflammation in the sockets of decayed fangs and teeth, which may last for months and cause severe pain in the jaws, face, and even in the temples, without resulting in suppuration or the formation of pus. The pain in such cases is often in sound teeth, and not at all in the one which causes the mischief, and ignorant practitioners not unfrequently extract

the sound teeth, which of course affords no relief. If in any case you fail to get relieved from pain in the teeth, jaws, face, or head, by the use of homœopathic remedies, and you think of having a tooth extracted, and the pain is in a sound tooth, or, if in a decayed tooth and you are not satisfied which defective tooth is the cause of the suffering, strike all the decayed teeth and fangs in your mouth with the end of a heavy pencil, key, or some other metallic body, and if you find one more sensitive than the rest have that extracted without any regard to the apparent seat of the pain.

Treatment of Toothache.—First, the preventive treatment. This disease is generally caused by the decay of the teeth; and the early decay of the teeth among Americans, is caused by the violation of the laws of physical development in the management and education of children. The proper consideration of such causes would require a volume. In the author's work on the "Avoidable Causes of Disease" you will find the needed information. Consult the chapters on the conditions requisite for physical development, use and abuse of the digestive organs, children, and education. To prevent your teeth from decaying keep them clean by frequently washing them with water. If the least appearance of decay manifests itself, do not delay a single day, but apply to a good dentist, and have the cavity carefully filled with gold. Do not wait until the tooth begins to ache, for it is generally too late, then, or at least the operation at this late hour will be found very uncertain at best. If your teeth are already badly decayed, and you have useless old shells and fangs, have them extracted, for they tend to contaminate others, and injure the general health. If tartar collects and separates the gums from the teeth apply to a dentist and have it removed occasionally, or it may crowd out the teeth.

In all cases of toothache which results from acute inflammation of the nerve of the tooth, or of the socket, it is very desirable to check the disease before the commencement of suppuration, for if matter once forms, we can do little more than palliate the symptoms until it is discharged; fortunately we can generally cure the disease promptly, if the remedies are applied early.

Aconite is an important remedy in all cases where there is heat about the face and head, fever, and great nervous excitement.

This remedy may be given internally, and when the pain is in a decayed tooth, a part of a drop of the tincture on a little cotton or lint, may be gently pressed into the cavity. *Aconite* will require to be given alternately with some other remedy in case there are fever, heat, and swelling, if it fails to relieve the pain when given alone.

Belladonna is perhaps more frequently required than any other remedy, when the pain is caused by inflammation of the nervous pulp in the tooth, or of the socket. It is also frequently useful for the slow inflammation of the socket, named above. The following are the chief indications for *Belladonna*: sharp pains which are renewed by mental labor, aggravated in the open air, and by the contact of food in chewing, or by applying anything hot. If it is caused by cold, and the face is hot and red, with burning in the head, and attended with fever, heat, and swelling, these are further indications for this remedy. In such cases it may be given alternately with *Aconite*, at intervals of one half an hour or hour. *Phosphorus* is the best remedy when there is pain from inflammation in the sockets around decayed teeth and fangs. Give a dose every hour.

Dose for any of these remedies, see page 7.

Mercurius viv.: Give this remedy when the teeth feel long and loose, and when the pains are excited by cold damp air, or by eating or drinking anything hot or cold, and when the teeth feel sore in their sockets without much pain; in the latter case repeat the remedy night and morning only. Give a dose every hour in acute cases.

Chamomilla will relieve when the pains seem intolerable, beating and stitching, especially at night, and where the pains are aggravated by drinking anything warm, especially coffee. If the pain extends to the face and ear, this remedy will often be useful. Give a dose every hour.

Nux vom. will often do better than either of the above remedies, especially in the case of coffee or whiskey drinkers, or of those who lead a sedentary life, and when the pains are worse at night, early in the morning, in the open air, or during mental labor. Give a dose every hour.

Pulsatilla, when there is a toothache with earache, and pain in the side of the head; aggravation or renewal of the pains in the evening, or at night after midnight, and in a warm room, and from eating warm substances, relief from cold water and cool fresh air. Repeat every hour or two.

Bryonia is a valuable remedy, when there are drawing pains, with looseness of the teeth, a sensation of elongation, especially during and after a meal, and when there is soreness of the gums. If the pains are of a rheumatic character, which may be suspected when the patient has recently been, or is at present, subject to rheumatic pains elsewhere, *Bryonia* is one of the most important remedies. In such cases, it will often require to be followed by *Rhus tox.* In obstinate cases, consult the sections on rheumatism and neuralgia.

For the toothache of children, *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, or *Chamomilla*, is generally required, or *Coffea*, if there is great nervous sensibility. To prevent a return, give *Mercurius viv.* every night for a week, and then give *Calcarea carb.* every night.

For toothache during pregnancy, give *Sepia*, *Calcarea carb.* or *Belladonna*. During nursing, give *China* three or four times a day, and any other remedy which may seem indicated, every hour during the pain.

SORE THROAT (ANGINA FAUCIUM)

We have simple diffused inflammation of the throat; membranous inflammation, or diphtheria, which sometimes assumes a magignant form; and inflammation of the tonsils or quinsy.

The first variety, or simple inflammation, is the most common form of sore throat. It is seated in the mucous membrane, but sometimes extends to the cellular structure beneath. It is characterized by increased redness and fullness of the membrane, but without much swelling. The uvula or end of the palate sometimes hangs down like a bag of water, and may be paler than natural. There is soreness, irritation, or tickling, a frequent disposition to hawk and spit, a feeling of choking, and a difficulty in swallow

ing and speaking. There is often some deafness, arising from the extension of the inflammation to the Eustachian tube or the passage which extends from the throat to the ear. The severity of the fever will depend, in a great measure, on the severity of the local affection. The causes of simple sore throat are the usual causes of catarrhal diseases, such as sudden changes of temperature and exposure.

Treatment.—When there is much fever, or heat of surface, a few doses of *Aconite* should be given, one every hour, and this remedy alone will sometimes cure the disease, but generally either *Belladonna* or *Ignatia*, will be required after *Aconite*.

Belladonna may be given when there are sore pains, burning, spasmodic contraction, with a constant desire to swallow, and a free flow of saliva, with fever and pain in the forehead.

Ignatia.—Give this remedy when there are burning and sore pains when swallowing, and a sensation as if a lump or crumb were in the throat, causing a constant inclination to swallow. Give a dose of either this remedy or *Belladonna* every hour.

Mercurius viv. may follow either of the above remedies when there is a profuse flow of saliva, difficult swallowing, especially of drinks, or on empty swallowing, and when there is a chill toward evening, and an aggravation at night, or in the open air. Repeat the doses once in two hours.

Lachesis will often be found useful in case the above remedies fail, especially if there are a burning and dry throat with a constant inclination to swallow, and a sensation as if a lump were sticking in the throat; aggravation in the afternoon, morning, and especially after sleeping, also from contact—relief from eating.

Chamomilla may be given when there are tickling and cough, especially useful in the case of women and children.

Continue a remedy as long as there is any improvement, but if no change is effected, at the end of from twelve to twenty-four hours, select some other remedy.

Dose of either of the above remedies, see page 7.

MEMBRANOUS SORE THROAT, OR DIPHTHERIA.

There are two forms of this disease, the one active and inflammatory, with a full pulse, hot and dry skin, the other malignant, with a low fever, small pulse, and cool extremities.

Diphtheria is characterized by the formation of a false membrane of lymph, or fibrinous matter, on the surface of the mucous membrane of the throat. The patches are of various extent, sometimes small and only here and there one, in other cases covering almost the entire throat, and sometimes extending up into the nose, or down into the air passages. In mild cases they are separate, small, and of a white or ashy color, presenting the appearance of superficial sloughs, or of ulcers, for which they are often mistaken; but in other instances they are connected, and form one uniform crust. In some cases the membrane is thin, but in others it is thick, sometimes soft, but in other instances it is dense and tough. In some of the worst, or malignant cases, the false membrane is discolored by the exudation of bloody and vitiated secretions of the throat, so as to present the appearance of mortification, and the offensive discharge and breath cause it to still more closely resemble the latter affection, but it is extremely rare, even in the most malignant form of the disease that there are actual mortification and sloughing; still they sometimes occur. The fever which attends the disease will be in keeping with the local affection. If the mucous membrane of the throat is bright red, and the patches light-colored, the fever will be active and inflammatory; whereas, if the mucous membrane is dark colored or livid, and the false membrane discolored, dark, offensive, manifesting a malignant form of local disease, the fever will be of a low typhus character, with rapid and feeble pulse, delirium, followed by stupor, sunken face, cold extremities and great exhaustion. This form of the disease is frequently epidemic, especially among those who inhabit crowded dwellings, and the poor and ill-fed classes of the community. Sometimes there are great sinking of the vital powers, prostration and death early in the disease, without the occurrence of marked symptoms of putridity. The symptoms of diphtheria are similar to those of ordinary sore

throat, excepting what we discover by an examination of the throat. If the breath is very offensive and the fever is of a typhoid character with sore throat, or if there is unusual prostration, we may suspect the existence of this false membrane, but we may have the latter without such symptoms.

There are two sources of danger, one from the malignant character of the disease, and the other from the extension of the false membrane to the air passages, when it causes symptoms similar to those of the worst form of croup. Hoarseness, a hoarse cough, and paroxysms of difficult breathing, should lead you to fear the extension of the disease to the larynx and trachea. When such symptoms occur, in addition to what is said in this section, consult the sections on laryngitis and croup.

Treatment.—If the fever is high, the skin hot, the breath not very offensive, and the patches of false membrane light colored, *Aconite* will be found of great service at the commencement of the disease. Give it alternately with *Mercurius prot.* at intervals of one hour.

Mercurius prot. is generally the most important remedy when the disease is not of a malignant character, and even when it is, it will often be of great service at the commencement of the attack. If the fever is very high and the skin hot, give *Aconite* alternately with it; but if the fever is less active, *Belladonna* may be given one hour and *Mercurius prot.* the next. You will not expect as immediate relief as in cases of simple sore throat, and after you have carefully selected a remedy, you should not change it for another sooner than twenty-four or forty-eight hours, unless the patient is manifestly getting worse. *Mercurius prot.* may require to be given for four or five days, or even longer in some cases, but if at the end of two or three days no impression is made on the symptoms, it will be better to omit the *Mercurius prot.* and give in its place *Mercurius viv.*

Dose of either of the remedies named; see page 7.

Lachesis: When the acute symptoms are somewhat relieved, and the fever is less active, this remedy may be given either alone or alternately with *Mercurius*, at intervals of one hour, especially if there is a sensation as if a foreign body were sticking in the