PEDIATRICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Diphtheria Bacilli in Noma.—JOSEPH WALSH (*Proceedings of the Philadelphia Pathological Society*, June, 1901, p. 179) reports that he has found diphtheria bacilli in all of eight cases of noma examined bacteriologically. Only one of these cases gave a pure culture of the diphtheria bacillus, and this occurred in a case with associated pharyngeal diphtheria, the child subsequently recovering. Another developed noma during measles, having suffered from diphtheria four months previously, and at the time of development of measles being isolated with another child who also presented clinical symptoms of diphtheria, but with negative cultures as regards this organism. Three of the other cases began just after measles. Four of the eight cases began with an ulcerative stomatitis. Fifteen other cases of ulcerative stomatitis were examined in hope of finding diphtheria bacilli, but with negative results.

He concludes that since noma is a species of moist gangrene, requiring probably, from analogy, two different organisms—one a saprophyte, to produce the putrefaction; another a parasite, to produce the primary necrosis—it is possible that in the cases in which diphtheria bacilli are found they may be the primary causative agent; and, secondly, that when other pathogenic micro-organisms capable of producing necroses are found it is possible that they may be the primary excitants.

Confirmatory Evidence in Favor of the Fourth Disease of Dukes.—FREDERICK T. SIMPSON (*Archives of Pediatrics*, September, 1901, p. 653) adds some confirmatory evidence as to the existence of a fourth disease resembling in some features both rubella and scarlatina, a question which was raised about a year ago by CLEMENT DUKES (see abstract of Dukes' paper in this department of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES*, February, 1901, p. 233). An epidemic of twenty-seven cases of eruptive disease was observed by the author at the American School for the Deaf, in Hartford, in the spring of the present year. The symptoms generally resembled those of rubella, the rash in most of the cases being of the morbillous type. A slight branny desquamation followed the rash in the majority of the cases, but in eight desquamation occurred in strips or lamellæ—in three copiously and universally—in the others confined to the hands and feet. In one case the epidermis of the entire heel was separated like a cast. The cases to desquamate most copiously were of the scarlatinal type, except one of the morbilliform type. The throat was slightly injected in most of the cases, but in only three or four was there a subjective feeling of