nursed by another. The nurse, Rose, was quite well at the time, but at the expiration of a week she commenced suffering in like manner. The child was then taken from her and given to a hired nurse, who becoming sick from other causes, was, after a week's nursing, compelled to return him to Rose. In the interval Rose continued to suffer with a soreness, but upon the infant being returned to her she became much worse, and *her own child* began to suffer in a similar manner: that is, to be affected with an inflammation of the mouth, accompanied with this curd-like exudation.

Oct. 26th.—Rose's breast continues in a very painful state—nursing occasioning a great deal of suffering. Several remedies have been employed, and apparently with good effect, but every attempt at nursing inflicts new injury and interrupts the healing process.

The infant was now given to a healthy young woman from the country, whose child was said already to have had the thrush, without communicating any disease to the nipple. Upon nursing the child for a few days *she, too*, began to complain from the same cause. Upon examining the nipple it was evident that a chapped condition had commenced, and it was only by limiting the nursing of the child, by diligent washing with soap and water after each application of the child, and by the use of astringent remedies, that the disease was prevented extending itself.

It is thus apparent that in particular cases a diseased state of the mouth, and seemingly of a very slight character, may communicate such disease to the mother as to incapacitate her from performing a most pleasing and necessary duty to her offspring, and that the breast so affected may communicate the same disease to another infant applied to it.

The contagious character of this disease has been affirmed by some, whilst it has been denied by others. Baron and Billard deny its contagiousness, while other practitioners have known healthy infants to become attacked by sucking from the same breast with those affected with the disease.

I would not be understood as affirming that the serious consequences I have mentioned are capable of being produced in all cases—the contrary, I believe, is the fact; but cases do occur, though fortunately but rarely, in which a trifling disease may have the property of communicating a very painful affliction to the mother.—*Charleston Med. Jour.*

IODINE AN ANTIDOTE TO THE VENOM OF THE RATTLE-SNAKE.

BY JAMES WHITMIRE, M.D., OF METAMORA, ILL.

I wish to say to the profession, through the North-Western Medical and Surgical Journal, that I believe iodine to be an antidote to the virus of the rattle-snake, and, in fact, the whole tribe of serpents.

My opinion, as to the antidotal property of iodine, has been confirmed by many cases that I could give from my case-book, in which I used the tinc. of iodine alone, with the effect of putting an entire stop to the

swelling and pain, in from 12 to 16 hours. I have used it in bites of the rattle-snake, viper and copper-head, on both man and beast, with complete success. My manner of using it is to paint the part that is bitten, and as far as the swelling extends, with three or four coats of tinct. (of pharmaceutical strength) twice daily; and should the swelling extend, which it almost always does after the first application, if made any time soon after the infliction of the wound, I follow it up with the paint. By the time the third application is made, the tumefaction will cease to extend, and three or four more applications will generally restore the limb, or part affected, to its natural state, save, perhaps, an obtuse sensibility to the touch, owing, perhaps, to the cuticle being destroyed, and some soreness of the muscles, which will remain a longer or shorter period.

A short history of my first acquaintance with this article may not be uninteresting to some of my readers. In June, 1846, I was reading a little work, by Dr. Guthrie, on the use of iodine in enlargements of the joints, goitre, &c., where its remedial virtues were ascribed to its tonic effect upon the capillary and lymphatic vessels of the part. During this time a lad rode up to my office door, and said that his brother had been bitten by a rattle-snake, and wished me to see him immediately. I had just entered upon the duties of my profession, and as a matter of course, to use a vulgar phrase, was stumped to know what to do for the boy. I had seen several cases of the kind, and some of them very troublesome ones, too, in which there had been used everything that had ever been recommended, both by the profession and the old ladies. So that it was doubtful in my mind whether there was any remedy that could be depended upon. I was satisfied that the immediate effect of the virus was a suddenly diffused, low grade of inflammation in the part in which it was injected, speedily extending its ravages until the whole system became a prey to its morbid influence; at which time fever, parched tongue, delirium, &c., followed in the train. The immediate contact of the virus with the capillary and lymphatic vessels of the part is no doubt the cause of the tumefaction that immediately comes on; the virus destroying natural tone. Either the above is true, or the swelling is produced upon the principle of *ubi irritatio ibi fluxus*. This process of reasoning led me to the trial of the tinct. of iodine. In about two hours from the time the boy was bitten, I saw him. He had received the wound about midway between the internal malleolus and the inferior portion of the os calcis; and the swelling had already extended to within three inches of the knee. There was severe pain in the part, nausea, and occasional vomiting. I proceeded to paint the foot and leg as high as the knee with four coats of the tinct. of iodine, and directed four more coats to be given at bed-time, and repeated in the morning. If the swelling extended above the knee, it was to be followed up with the paint. I then gave my patient a dose of Hoffman's anodyne, and a pretty active dose of Epsom salts, with directions to leave the leg uncovered the whole time, and took my leave. The next day the boy came to town, on horseback, to see me. The swelling had ceased to

extend about 12 o'clock in the night, and at this time had decreased very considerably. In three or four days he experienced no inconvenience from the bite, and went about his ordinary occupation. Since that time I have had numerous cases of the same kind, all of which have terminated equally well under the same treatment. It is my opinion, therefore, that the iodine being absorbed, comes in contact with the virus, and neutralizes it, at the same time giving tone to the engorged capillaries of the part, enabling them to empty themselves of their engorgement. And, if the wound has been inflicted so long that there is effused serum in the cellular tissue, from debility of the vessels, the tinct. of iodine is none the less applicable, as it will speedily promote its absorption.—*North-Western Med. and Surg. Jour.*

A NEW TREATMENT OF CATARRH.

BY JOHN A. LOCKWOOD, M.D., SURGEON U. S. NAVY.

For nearly a year I have pursued a plan of treatment in catarrh, which, in numerous instances, unfailingly relieved its initial symptoms almost immediately. It is adapted to its earliest stages, when the mucous lining of the nasal cavities is dry, tumid and red, accompanied with a feeling of heat, fulness and itching of the part.

The remedy consists in the application of a solution of nitrate of silver to the Schneiderian membrane. It is best applied with a camel's hair pencil. The strength of the solution should not be less than eight grains of the salt to one ounce of the distilled water. I ordinarily employ a solution somewhat stronger—ten grains to the ounce.

The application is not painful, nor even disagreeable. Its immediate effect is to excite a copious serous effusion, which continues for some minutes. After this the tonsils are freed from the previous impediment to the passage of the breath through them, when the sensation of relief becomes at once manifest. With the subsidence of the local swelling, the general heaviness and *malaise* disappear. For some minutes, the inhalation of cold air communicates to the mucous lining of the nose a feeling of rawness. This, however, is of short duration, after which, unless the inflammation has extended beyond the Schneiderian membrane, the cure is complete.

To accomplish a radical cure, the solution should be applied at the very commencement of the attack. When the inflammation has extended to the pharynx, &c., it is no longer practicable to subject all the parts affected to a treatment which is mainly local. I have, however, applied the remedy in many cases where the disease had made several days' progress. Then, although no expectations were entertained of removing any symptoms of bronchial irritation which might have supervened, the relief to the head was always satisfactory, by the liberty it afforded to the passage of air through the nostrils.

M. Deschamps, in the *Gazette des Hopitaux* for October, 1847, recommends snuffing up the nostrils every two hours a solution of opium in