

to it, when scalding hot, according to the practice of the late Dr. Buck. She then became very fond of it, and called it "oysters." This little circumstance is important, when we consider how difficult it is to find a new article of diet for a child.

The small patch of lymph on the left tonsil, observed at the first visit, was the only one noticed throughout the disease. The throat and larynx were remarkably free after the operation—possibly due, in part, to the continued use of chlor. potass.

The successful result of the operation, however, was largely due to the persevering attentions of the family, and especially of the father, and the watchful care of the young medical gentleman who so kindly relieved my anxiety for her by night. Fortunately, no obstruction occurred, requiring the removal of the outer tube, till it was dispensed with.

Dr. Cabot made the morning visit with me, and usually the evening, till the canula was removed. The operation was performed December 1st, and the tubes removed on the 8th, just one week.

SUCCESSFUL CASE OF TRACHEOTOMY IN CROUP.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Jan. 28th, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

BY SAMUEL CABOT, JR., M.D.

W. F. D., aged two years and seven months, son of healthy American parents, was born with what I presume to have been atelectasis of a portion of one lung; and, for the first twelve months after birth, was rather a feeble child, suffering almost constantly with bronchitis, and finally with diarrhœa also. Medicine seemed to do little or no good; and I put him on the use of scraped raw beef, which he took a great liking for, and under the use of which he rapidly gained health and strength, his diarrhœa leaving him very soon, and, after a summer in the country, he returned in robust health, without cough or other ailment, until about fourteen days before I saw him, when he had a breaking out upon the face, which, from the account given by the parents, I suppose impetiginous. On the evening of January 2d, I was sent for to see him. I found that he had been observed to be somewhat hoarse the day before, but had seemed well in other respects, though still having the remains of the eruption about the nose and mouth. When I saw him, he was breathing rapidly, and with some difficulty, his respiration noisy, and having some hoarse cough; his tongue was coated with a white coat, but no membrane was seen on the tonsils. He had eaten largely of corned beef, cranberry sauce, &c. Attributing his symptoms to spasmodic affection of the larynx consequent upon indigestion, I gave him an emetic, which brought away a considerable quantity of undigested food, with some relief to the symptoms.

January 3d.—Breathing quite hoarsely, with same hoarse cough; no membrane visible in throat; p. 140. Gave another emetic, which brought away only some mucus, and a bit of false membrane about one third of an inch square; put him in a room filled with steam, and gave chlorate of potass.; had his bowels emptied by an injection. He seemed rather better during the day; his pulse fell in frequency, and his breathing was easier.

January 4th.—At morning visit much as yesterday; became worse towards night; p. 150; resp. labored; *alæ nasi* moving strongly.

January 5th.—Had an early visit from the father, who said that the little fellow had seemed on the verge of suffocation during the night for a considerable time; had then become easier, and remained so until shortly before he came for me, when the same symptoms of suffocation had recurred with increased severity. When I arrived, I found him struggling for breath, with a sub-livid face; pulse 170, and intermittent. Feeling that the only hope was in the performance of tracheotomy, I sent for Dr. Buckingham, who fortunately lived near at hand, to meet me. He concurring in the propriety of tracheotomy, I immediately proceeded to the performance of that operation. We found that false membrane covered the trachea at the point opened, and extended below the part visible. We made some unsuccessful attempts to peel off some of the false membrane; but, on introducing the tube, and finding that air did not pass through it, I withdrew it, and immediately a bit of false membrane was thrown out, which had probably been pushed before the tubes, and plugged them, preventing the passage of the air; on re-introducing the tube, the respiration soon became satisfactorily established, the complexion improved, as also the pulse, which fell to about 130.

I was so fortunate as to secure the attendance of some of the members of the Medical Class, who continued to watch the case with unremitting care, until danger had passed, and to whose intelligent watchfulness and care the successful issue of the case may be largely attributed. Two hours after the operation, the pulse had fallen to 120; res. 56. During the day, a number of pieces of false membrane were thrown off, among which was one about half an inch square. The child took some beef-tea, and *argenti nit. ði.* to the *f. ʒ* of water was injected once or twice in the course of the day; the chlorate of potash was continued, and the steam kept up in the most thorough manner. The child slept a good deal, without opiates. The chlorate of potass. had to be discontinued several times during treatment, on account of diarrhœa. Took milk-punch and beef-tea freely; and, during the nights of January 5th and 6th, some Dover's powder, which was the only time he took it.

January 7th.—Pulse 130, 140; respiration 68, 70; got scraped raw beef; relished it very much; took also beef-tea.

January 8th.—Much as yesterday; little or no membrane; some loose dejections.

January 9th.—Pulse 128, 130; respiration 48, 60; sitting up and amusing himself; eats his beef with a good relish. After removing inner tube, had cork inserted in outer one; could breathe a little through larynx.

January 10th.—Has taken beef and pap with good relish; plays with toys; pulse and respiration much as yesterday; can breathe a little through larynx.

January 11th.—Pulse 136; respiration 40. Can breathe more through larynx.

January 12th.—Pulse 120; respiration 50; both tubes taken out; appetite good; strength improving.

January 17th.—Since last record, pulse has kept along at about 125; respiration 49; appetite has continued good; strength and spirits improving; cough has diminished; orifice has been slowly closing, and to-day no air passes through it. Voice more and more audible every day; can be easily understood across the room to-day; pulse 120; respiration 34.

January 23d.—Up and dressed; playing about the room.

January 25th.—Voice almost natural.

Bibliographical Notices.

On Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Disorders of the Mind; their incipient Symptoms, Pathology, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prophylaxis. By FORBES WINSLOW, M.D., D.C.L., &c. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 8vo. 1860.

THIS is an interesting but singular book. It contains an immense amount of facts, pertinently illustrative of every form and phase and shade of mental and moral disease. These are given in an easy, gossiping manner, spiced with emphatic and abundant adjectives, and fascinating the reader like a story book. The work is divided into chapters, and each chapter has its title, which, however, is not always an indication of what you are to find in its perusal. As you go on with the book, you are impressed with the belief that after a number of cases somewhat akin had been observed by the author, they had been grouped, and commented and theorized upon, and "pigeon holed" for future use; and when this process had been repeated a number of times, at odd intervals, and without any definite or connected intention, the materials were some day brought out and linked together, and each package made a chapter of this book. Indeed, the writer avers that his intention, in commencing, was to write a *prefatory* chapter to a work which he has prepared upon "Organic Diseases of the Brain," and that its unexpected length had induced him to publish it as an introductory *book* to others which will follow. This *prefatory* feature runs through the work; subjects are broached and briefly theorized upon, and their further examination deferred until another time. In spite of