

showing a livid tint of the skin resembling the tint of asphyxia, and complaining of general weakness, pain near the heart, a soreness beneath the sternum, with a beating pain passing from temple to temple, while to assume the erect position caused giddiness, increasing the cyanotic hue and a stinging pain in the eyes, while to assume the recumbent position gave him freedom from all suffering. Patient had no nausea or vomiting, but body was bathed in perspiration, respiring thirty times per minute, and a pulse of 110.

The medicine was taken about 5 A.M., producing in thirty minutes a form of intoxication and desire to sleep, which our patient indulged in until 10 o'clock. Gave him stimulants and ordered him to keep a recumbent position. I was afterwards informed that he had taken of a mixture of antifebrin one ounce, and elixir taraxacum comp. six ounces, of which solution he drank about seventeen drachms. I am sorry to say I did not take his temperature. I take great pleasure in reporting this case for it certainly demonstrates the susceptibility of the patient to this drug. See acknowledges its value, says it is poisonous, in doses of about 25 grains. Vinberg reports a case of typhoid where 10 grains every four hours produced great cyanosis and a weak compressible pulse of 116. Sexton tells of a case where 10 grains of antifebrin reduced the temperature from 105° to 102° F., 5 grains more were given, which were followed in two hours by cyanosis of the whole body, profuse sweating and collapse; while Pavai Vajna states that in weak patients a dose of 0.25 grams may produce collapse, while in some cases 1 gram has no effect at all.

In conclusion will say the patient—a farmer—resumed work the next day.

W. R. ALLISON, M.D.

Good Hope, Illinois.

#### The Migration of a Needle.

*To the Editor:*—On Dec. 9, 1888, Miss Nellie S., æt. 17, called at my office and stated that she believed she had a needle in her arm. Upon careful inquiry I could find no reason for such a supposition, except that she could feel something like a needle, one end of which was beneath the skin, while the other was deep in the muscles near the bone. She had never run a needle into her arm or in any other part of her body, and it was with much doubt as to the correctness of her belief that I began my examination.

Miss Nellie pinched up a roll of integument and muscle on her arm, and thrust one end of the supposed needle against the skin. It had all the appearance of some such foreign material, and I cut down upon the projecting point with forceps; I then removed a needle two inches long, with

the point broken off, and the whole needle enclosed in a capsule. It was the head of the needle found beneath the skin and the point was near the bone. The point from which the needle was removed was six inches below the tip of the shoulder and seven inches above the elbow on the front side of the arm.

The young lady's mother states that when 5 years of age the child was sewing and swallowed the needle. This needle must have lodged in some mucous fold of the pharynx or upper part of the œsophagus, and then passed down between the muscles of the neck and shoulder, and down the arm to the point from which twelve years later it was removed. Concerning this peculiar migration of such substances, J. Solis-Cohen says, that "sometimes needles and pins work their way in safety through the different tissues to the surface of the body, even to the most unlikely regions."

SARA A. KIME, M.D.

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dec. 10, 1888.

#### From Muskegon, Michigan.

*To the Editor:*—A new medical club has recently been organized at this place. Its membership will be limited to a specified number. It begins with a charter membership of seven, as follows: Drs. J. P. Stoddard, J. M. Cook, O. C. Williams, C. P. Donelson, J. VanderLaan, G. S. Williams, and F. W. Garber. Dr. VanderLaan has been made president, and Dr. Garber secretary and treasurer. Meetings will be held bi-monthly. The first regular meeting will be held Tuesday, January 22.

Twenty-eight cases of diphtheria have been reported to the Health Officer since December 1, 1888. These, together with the cases not reported, would make about forty cases within that time. With but one or two exceptions, the disease has manifest itself in a very mild form. Three deaths only have been reported.

F. W. G.

Muskegon, Mich., January 14.

#### Web Fingers and Toes.

*To the Editor:*—Five years ago Mrs. T., lately removed to this locality, had a child four years old having a complete web or fleshy union of ring and middle fingers of one hand. A year and a-half later her neighbor bore a child having a corresponding union in two pairs of the fingers of each hand, and similar union of the smaller toes of both feet. Was it a simple coincidence, or did the mother or father impress the child thus?

I. W. S.

Charles City, Iowa, Dec. 13, 1888.