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The Star.

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STATE ANTITOXIN SAVES MANY LIVES

Health Commissioner Dixon's Free Distribution of Antitoxin Greatly Reduces Death Rate Among Poor in Pennsylvania.

EARLY USE OF SERUM URGED

Dr. Dixon Points Out the Increased Benefit of Using Antitoxin As Soon As Possible After the Onset of the Disease — Use Liberally For Immunizing.

The free distribution of Diphtheria Antitoxin inaugurated by Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner of the new State Department of Health, is already showing a splendid saving of precious lives. Out of the total number of cases reported to the Department of Health in January in which the free Antitoxin was administered there were so few deaths as to bring the death rate down to 8.8 per cent. This was a reduction of over 5 per cent. from the December figures. This low death rate as shown by the January records means that instead of about 42 lives being lost out of every hundred cases of Diphtheria, as would be found where Antitoxin is not used, the disease was able to claim only about nine victims. It means that instead of 420 deaths out of every 1000 cases of Diphtheria, the death rate is brought down by the free distribution of Antitoxin to 88.

Health Commissioner Dixon feels confident that as the custom of free distribution of Antitoxin becomes more thoroughly established and the physicians of the State use the serum more promptly after the onset of the disease and in more liberal doses, the death rate will go far lower.

From city, town and country village all over the big State of Pennsylvania the physicians are sending in their reports that tell the story of little children stricken down by Diphtheria, and then of the arrest of the dread disease by the administering of the wonderful prophylactic—Antitoxin. Dread disease it hardly need be called any longer, for the hand of death that was formerly thought to have the little child surely in its grasp, the moment that Diphtheria was diagnosed, has now lost its power.

At the time that the State Department of Health is supplying Antitoxin for curative purposes, it is also furnishing the serum for immunizing.

When the family physician is called into the humble home and reads upon the child's throat the signs that to his practiced eye mean Diphtheria, he knows also that the little brothers and sisters of the sick child have by this time probably been exposed to the disease and may be stricken down at any moment. No need for him to wait and see if any of these other children develop the symptoms of the disease. He may immediately secure from the State's free distributing depots sufficient Antitoxin to immunize every one of the little ones, and the older members of the household, too, who have been exposed to the infection.

It is now the aim of the Health Commissioner to impress upon the physicians of the State the great importance of administering the Antitoxin in curative doses as soon as possible after the onset of the disease, and the immunizing doses as soon as it is known that other children of the household have been in any way exposed to the disease. The importance of this early use is shown very clearly in the clinical reports that the State Department of Health receives in cases where the free Antitoxin has been used. The January records show in more than one case that if the Antitoxin had been administered earlier, and in some cases more liberally, a life might have been saved.

Dr. Dixon greatly appreciates the co-operation he is getting from his fellow physicians throughout the state in securing to the people the full benefits of the free distribution of Diphtheria Antitoxin. On their part the physicians are daily telling of the benefits experienced by them in their practices.

Dr. S. F. McDonald, of Lawrence county, writes to the commissioner: "I am enclosing clinical report of the household of diphtheria treated with the department Antitoxin. The results were very gratifying. I feel that the furnishing of such for the poor is a boon to scientific medicine, a great aid to the physicians of the state, and a very much needed charity to the poor."

"It was a matter of life or death with his patients," writes Distributor Rouse, of Shenandoah, in telling of the rush of a physician to his depot for the purpose of securing a package of State's Antitoxin.

"I am sure the Antitoxin has saved the life of the patient," writes Dr. N. Ziegenfuss, of South Bethlehem, on the bottom of one of his clinical reports received by the commissioner.

Dr. J. E. Tweedle, of Carbon county, tells of being called into a household

where six children were down with diphtheria and adds on his report "The children all recovered and are doing well."

"Let me express my opinion that this is a Godsend for the poor. The parents of my patients send thanks to you and all connected," is the testimony of Dr. George H. Tibbins, of Wyoming county, to the value of the state's free Antitoxin.

At the 500 different points throughout the state where Health Commissioner Dixon has established a depot

of distribution, there is kept a supply of fresh Antitoxin that can be drawn upon immediately by the physician whenever he has a case of diphtheria in a family that cannot afford to bear the expense of the serum. The system of keeping these depots supplied so that no valuable time may be lost in administering the Antitoxin, has been carefully worked out by the Department of Health, and the commissioner pays high tribute to the excellent manner in which his distributors have taken hold of their work and the conscientious care they are showing in keeping their records of the amounts distributed.

A Story of False Imprisonment.

One of the strangest of stories of false imprisonment comes from France. A woman was sentenced to imprisonment for life for having caused the death of her husband and brother. The three had lived together at Malintun, near Rouen, in a cottage, the lower part of which was used as a wine shop. When the woman was sent to prison other people took the wine shop, but the new tenants suffered, the man from fainting fits, his wife from nausea, from which she died. Another couple tried their fortune, but they, too, were overcome by the "spell of the accused place," as they thought it. They were subject to fainting and loss of memory. At last a scientific examination of the premises was made. Then it was found that adjoining the inn was a lime kiln. In the wall dividing it from the cottage were many fissures, so that whenever lime was burnt monoxide of carbon escaped into the inn. This was the secret of the deaths for which the woman was suffering. She was brought out of prison after six years of servitude.

A Doctor of the Old School.

Father was a doctor, a genuine, hemp sewed, corn fed country physician of the gray haired class of our oldest school. He neither wore kid gloves nor practiced in them. His patients either had to get well or die, with no loitering on the way. He felt the pulse with one hand and poured castor oil with the other.

"Put your trust in castor," was father's creed, and he lived it and administered it. Castor oil was both his diagnosis and his cure. He gave it any way. If it worked, well and good; if not, he used some other lubricant or else administered liberal doses of more energetic concoctions. There were no milk and water mixtures in his medicine case.

But castor oil first; castor oil, the disease seeking chaser of everything within its reach, and by the great table-spoon it reached about everything—"Gumption," by N. C. Fowler, Jr.

When Folks Feared Gas.

In the early days of the last century, when illuminating gas was first used in London, timorous people talked of the dangers of suffocation and of explosions to which the gas, which was still imperfectly purified, exposed the citizens. Scientists confirmed these assertions, and the first gasometers erected in London by Samuel Clegg so terrified the people that no workman would venture to light the gas jets which had been placed on Westminster bridge. But Clegg soon overcame this difficulty by lighting a torch and applying it to the burners with his own hands. On another occasion before a committee of the Royal society of London he bored a hole in the gas holder and put a lighted candle to it, to the great alarm of the spectators, but without causing the slightest accident. Gradually the eyes even of the most prejudiced were opened to the truth.

A Feminine Felling.

I was being rowed across a Canadian lake by a party of Indians and was told I must not break the stillness or the spirits of the place would be offended, says a woman writer in the Indiana Farmer. It was a calm, cloudless day, and the canoe sped like an arrow across the smooth waters. Suddenly, when in the middle of the lake, I determined to prove to these simple folk the folly of their belief. So I lifted up my voice in a wild cry that woke every echo of the hills. The Indians were filled with consternation. They uttered no word, but, straining every nerve, rowed on in frowning silence. They reached the shore in safety, and I had triumphed. But the leader of the Indians looked on me in concern.

"The great spirit is merciful," he said. "He knows that the white woman cannot hold her peace."

The Life Line.

Amateur Palmist—The life line indicates how long you will live. Skeptical Friend—Yes? Isn't it a wonder the life insurance companies pay no attention to it?

No Dissection in Jersey.

In many states the law assumes if a dead man has no friends to bury him there will be no objection made if the body is dissected. For this reason all unclaimed bodies are given to medical colleges. Although there are more than 150 medical colleges in the United States, not one is in operation in New Jersey because dissection of the human body is prohibited by law in that state.

The Cross Counter.

Two debutantes were lunching at a table by a window.

"I've been wondering all day," said the blond, "why you weren't invited to the Smith-Smith's."

"The brunette, with a sweet, clear laugh, replied:

"And I've been wondering all day, dear, why you were."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Just a Mispheard Comman.

An article on the milk supply of large cities in the British Medical Journal contains this remarkable passage: "The man having finished milking, his cow offered to take me into an adjoining room where the milk was cooled."

A Similarity.

"He's quite wealthy and prominent now," said Mrs. Starvan, "and they say he rose practically from nothing."

"Well, well!" remarked Mr. Border. "That's just what I rose from—at the breakfast table this morning."

The Preferred.

Dumby—What they call preferred stock is the stock that pays dividends, isn't it? Whoman—Not at all; but the stock that does pay dividends is always preferred.—Exchange.

Aims of a higher order, even though they be not fulfilled, are more valuable than lower ones entirely fulfilled.—Goethe.

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