The patient was a strong young man, of more than average size. No signs of distress were noticeable. There was no dyspnœa, nor any tenderness of the neck on pressure. The voice was slightly husky. Laryngoscopic examination revealed, in an extremely large larynx, situated longtitudinally, a piece of bone, the broader end of which seemed to be imbedded in the right ventricle, while the other end leaned against the left ary-epiglottic ligament. The upper end seemed not to be impacted. It was evident that this patient's larynx was not very irritable. The autoscope was introduced with the medium-sized hood attached. No cocaine was deemed necessary. It was possible to readily grasp the foreign body with a slender serrated forceps in Krause's straight tube and universal handle, and to lift it out of the larynx and remove it together with the autoscope. The removed piece of bone was one of the small ribs of a chicken, and was nearly one and a half inches long. The whole operation took but a few seconds.

RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR 1896.

DIPHTHERIA.

BY J. MACINTYRE, M.B., F.R.S.

The etiology, pathology, and treatment of this affection still occupy the attention of the profession. The literature, as usual, is abundant, and comes from all parts of the world. It is quite impossible to give the least idea of the number of papers written upon this subject during the year, but, taken collectively, it is only fair to say that our knowledge of many of the questions associated with this terrible affection has been largely increased. Some of the papers deal with isolated cases, or only a few, and cannot be of great value when taken individually. Others have been studied altogether from the clinical standpoint, and it need hardly be pointed out that statistics have again been brought in by different writers to support totally opposing views. When one considers the many difficulties in arriving at a just conclusion one cannot wonder that controversies are still going on as to the exact value of the serum treatment. It is fair, however, to say that with another year's trial it has received great support from the medical profession, and its advocates include many reliable observers and authorities.

Kanthack and Stephens deal with the question of the escape of the diphtheritic bacillus into the blood and organs ("Path. Soc., London," Jan. 7, 1896, p. 181) by continuity and contiguity of tissue to passage along the lymphatics, and to distribution by the blood stream. Hewlett and Nolan ("Brit. Med. Journ.," Feb. 1, 1896, p. 205) give the result of 1000 cases examined at the British Institute of Medicine. In 587 the bacillus was found, in four the result was doubtful; in 353 the bacilli were present in pure culture. In one case, proved by inoculation, virulence was proved twenty-three weeks after convalescence.

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Wolfenden ("Brit. Journ. Laryng.," July, 1896, p. 1) draws attention to the question of the spread of disease in schools. Smith, of the London School Board, concludes, after inquiry into 2168 cases, that school plays an unimportant part in the enormous increase of this affection. Shirley Murphy combats this view, and holds that during the school season there is an increase. Lennox Browne (p. 309) has collected a valuable review of the records of others. It need scarcely be pointed out that in such an important question as the serum treatment both sides of the question deserve careful attention. He has collected names of authors "who are adverse, or who deprecate the extravagant enthusiasm of others." He quotes the dangers recorded as complications:—Baginsky, cardiac failure; Soerensen, hæmorrhagic nephritis; Oertel, Hansemann, Benda, Siegert, albuminuria. Klebs, Fraser, Kortright, and Kassowitz's names are cited as raising doubt as to the immunizing power.

The question of how far the results may be influenced by combining serum treatment with other constitutional local aids also receives attention, while the statistics of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are critically examined. The "Lancet" Commission has during the year gone extensively into a most important point, viz., on the relative strengths of diphtheria antitoxic serum.

MOUTH AND PHARYNX.

BY A. SANDFORD, M.D.

With the ever increasing number of *special* societies and of reports from other sources the difficulties of attempting anything approaching an exhaustive synopsis of the work brought forward during the year have proportionately increased. Moreover, the space required for a comprehensive retrospect would far exceed that available for such a purpose. It will, therefore, not be possible to attempt more than a brief reference to the more interesting points embraced in the year's work, with he mere mention of the communications upon various subjects which have appeared or received notice in this JOURNAL during the past year.

Nothing of a sensational character, or even approaching to first-class importance, has been achieved in connection with affections of the mouth and pharynx; but a considerable amount of steady work has been recorded, proving the existence of a constant spirit of scientific investigation, which has, with concentrated attention, been actively engaged on every possible source of fresh information.

The importance of thorough *antisepsis* of the mouth and pharynx has been dwelt upon by various authorities in relation to the protection and treatment of adjacent organs, thus guarding the main portal against the admission of hostile germs. For this purpose, among the various well-known agents, a solution of fluoride of sodium (up to 1 per cent.) has been recommended as a wash. Pedley has treated of the reflexes arising from neglected children's teeth. Kobner uses belladonna in full doses in cases

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