

able and communicable disease. *Tinea circinata*, or ringworm of the skin, is in itself an easily managed affection, but it is one which no parent should permit a child to have, and one which we should not allow to be communicated to others. There is no doubt in my mind that there are many cases of ringworm, perhaps especially of the scalp, now in the public schools of the city.

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The knowledge of the source of disease is helping greatly in its prevention, and prevention is now much more successful in many diseases than is cure. If we know that the especial pet of the little children may communicate to them an unpleasant disease, we are in a position to prevent such an occurrence, and, if prevention fails, to recognise the source of the disease. The above is prefatory to the description of a case, recently under my care, which may briefly be detailed as follows:—A little school girl aged seven. The first lesion appeared on the face, about ten days before; later the two body lesions. When I saw the patient the condition was as follows: Over the lower edge of the left molar eminence a quarter-dollar sized patch clear in the centre, forming a ring one-eighth inch wide, composed of fine papulo-vesicles and crusts. A similar, but smaller, lesion in the right cheek, then one on the right posterior thoracic surface, and one on the mons veneris. Despite the irritation produced by a popular patent skin mixture, the disease presented no difficulty to the diagnosis of ringworm.

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The father stated that a "stray" Maltese cat had "taken up" at his house a month previously, and that the child played with it, and it frequently got in the bed with her. The little girl was treated with the pyrogallic collodion mixture. Upon the next visit she brought the cat. A large part of the neck, anterior part of the body and the fore legs showed scaliness and broken, or nearly absent hairs on the skin—such a condition as this is frequently called "mange." Some of the broken hairs and scales were removed and examined, in *liquor potassæ*, under the microscope. The *trichophyton* fungus was abundantly present in the root-sheaths of the hairs and in the scales.

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Thus the microscope proved the existence of ringworm in the cat, and as the cat had it first, and the child had been exposed only to the contagion from the cat, the inference that the cat "gave" the disease to the child became a certainty. It is only necessary to add in closing that the possibility of contracting not only ringworm, but more serious diseases from the lower animals, should never be lost sight of."

Medical Matters.

THE TEETH IN CONSUMPTION.



THE condition of the teeth in cases of Phthisis is a matter to which attention has only been called within very recent times; but the more clearly the intimate connection between nutrition and Consumption is understood, the more plain does it become that the teeth are most important factors in the causation and development of what formerly used to be regarded as a mere Lung disease. In the first place, then, the enlargement of the lymphatic glands in the neck in children, which used to be ascribed to a "strumous constitution," and which so often progressed to the formation of a cheesy abscess, and then to infection of the glands at the apex of one or both lungs, and finally to a similar cheesy, or, as it was called, tubercular deposit in, and breaking down of, the lung tissue itself, is now known to be frequently set up by, and entirely due to, decay of the teeth. This has been finally proved by researches recently carried out in Austria, in which it was found that more than half of a large number of children who had glandular swellings in the neck were suffering from advanced decay of the teeth on the same side, and that in every instance the removal of the teeth evidently removed the cause of the glandular irritation, because the latter at once subsided and disappeared. The proof has been carried also an important step further; and it has been proved that the tubercle bacilli may even find their way into the glands through the teeth. In two cases—in neither of which was there any hereditary tendency to Phthisis—the tubercle bacilli were found in two decayed molar teeth, and also in glands under the same side of the jaw, which enlarged when the caries of the teeth became marked. The importance of this discovery cannot be exaggerated. It furnishes the clue to many cases of obscure growths in the neck arising in lymphatic glands, and therefore emphasises the necessity not only of careful cleaning of the teeth but also of the speedy removal of any decay which may show itself. It shows the need of removing carious teeth at once in children, who show any sign of glandular

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