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DIPHTHERIA.



BOARD OF HEALTH,

32 Pemberton Square,

Boston, January, 1880.

The following circular is issued for the purpose of more widely extending the knowledge of a few well attested facts concerning Diphtheria, and reminding all persons that greater care should be exercised to prevent the spread of this much-dreaded disease.

Diphtheria is contagious and infectious, and may be easily communicated, either directly or indirectly, from person to person.

It may be conveyed directly in the act of kissing, coughing, spitting, sneezing; or indirectly by infected articles used, as towels, napkins, handkerchiefs, etc.

The poison clings with great tenacity to rooms, houses, articles of furniture and clothing, and may occasion the disease, even after the lapse of months.

Diphtheria attacks all classes, at all ages, and at all seasons of the year. By preference it attacks children and those who are debilitated from exposure to filth, dampness, or foul air from whatever source.

When a case of Diphtheria occurs in any family, the sick person should be placed in a room apart from the other inmates of the house, and should be nursed, as far as possible, by one person only.

The sick chamber should be well warmed, exposed to sunlight, and well aired; its furniture should be such as will permit of cleansing without injury, and all extra articles, such as window and table drapery, woolen carpets, upholstered furniture, and all hangings, should be removed from the room during the sickness.

The physician and nurse, as a rule, should be the only persons admitted to the room.

Visitors to the infected house should be warned of the presence of a dangerous disease therein, and children especially should not be admitted.

All clothing removed from the patient or the bed should be at once placed in boiling water or in a tub of disinfecting fluid, (8 oz. sulphate zinc, 1 oz. carbolic acid, and 3 gallons water,) by the nurse before being carried through the house or handled by any other person. They may be soaked in this fluid for an hour and then placed in boiling water for boiling.

It is better not to use handkerchiefs for cleansing the nostrils and mouth of the patient, but rather soft rags which should be immediately thereafter burned.

All vessels for receiving the discharges of the patient should constantly contain some of the disinfecting fluid.

Water closets and privies in the house should be disinfected daily with a solution of copperas,—two pounds to a gallon of water.

Every kind and source of filth in and around the house should be thoroughly removed, and disinfectants freely used. Cleanliness tends both to prevent and mitigate the disease.

Drains should be put in perfect order and ventilated by a 4 inch straight pipe extended above the highest point of the roof of the house in every instance, terminating at a distance from any chimney or other ventilator.

Children in the family should not attend school or mingle with other children until the patient has wholly recovered, and all infected articles have been disinfected.

On the recovery or death of the patient the most thorough disinfection should follow. The room and all articles in it should be at once subjected to the fumes of burning sulphur as follows: Close the room tightly and burn 2½ pounds of sulphur to each thousand cubic feet of space.

After four or six hours open the room and expose it to the air and sunlight for a week. Anything that can be boiled without injuring may be so treated. The walls and ceilings should be dry rubbed or lime washed, and the floors washed with soap and water to which may be added a little carbolic acid.

When death occurs the body should be immediately placed in the coffin, with disinfectants, and the coffin tightly and finally closed.

No public funeral should ever take place at the house where the patient died, nor elsewhere, unless the coffin remains hermetically sealed.

By direction of the Board of Health.

C. E. DAVIS, JR.,

Clerk.

DIPHTHERIA.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

32 Pemberton Square.

Boston, January, 1880.

The following chapter is issued for the purpose of more widely extending the knowledge of a few well-attended facts concerning Diphtheria, and reminding all persons that greater care should be exercised to prevent the spread of this much-feared disease.

Diphtheria is contagious and infectious, and may be easily communicated, either directly or indirectly, from person to person.

It may be conveyed directly in the act of kissing, coughing, spitting, sneezing; or indirectly by contact with a person, or with his clothing, or with his food, or with his drink.

The person chiefly with great tendency to rooms, houses, articles of furniture and clothing, and may occasion the disease, even after the lapse of months.

Diphtheria attacks all classes, at all ages, and at all seasons of the year. By preference it attacks children and those who are debilitated from exposure to cold, dampness, or foul air from whatever source.

When a case of Diphtheria occurs in any family, the sick person should be placed in a room apart from the other inmates of the house, and should be nursed, as far as possible, by one person only.

The sick chamber should be well ventilated, exposed to sunlight, and well aired; its furniture should be such as will permit of cleaning without injury, and all extra articles, such as window and table covers, woolen carpets, upholstered furniture, and all hangings, should be removed from the room during the sickness.

The physician and nurse, as a rule, should be the only persons admitted to the room.

Visitors to the infected house should be warned of the presence of a dangerous disease therein, and children especially should not be admitted.

All clothing removed from the patient or the bed should be at once placed in boiling water or in a tub of disinfecting fluid (5 per cent. solution of 1 oz. carbolic acid, and 3 gallons water), by the nurse before being carried through the house or handled by any other person. They may be soaked in this fluid for an hour and then placed in boiling water for boiling.

It is better not to use handkerchiefs for cleaning the nostrils and mouth of the patient, but rather soft rags which should be immediately thrown away.

All vessels for receiving the discharges of the patient should constantly contain some of the disinfecting fluid. Water closets and urinals in the house should be disinfected daily with a solution of copperas—two pounds to a gallon of water.

Every kind and source of filth in and around the house should be thoroughly removed, and disinfectants freely used. Disinfectants tend both to prevent and mitigate the disease.

Persons should be put to bed as early as possible, and a high window kept constantly open above the patient's point of the foot of the house in every instance terminating at a distance from any chimney or other ventilator.

Children in the family should not attend school or mingle with other children until the patient has wholly recovered, and all infected articles have been disinfected.

On the recovery or death of the patient the most thorough disinfection should follow. The room and all articles in it should be at once subjected to the fumes of burning sulphur as follows: Close the room tightly and burn 1½ pounds of sulphur to each thousand cubic feet of space.

After four or six hours open the room and expose it to the air and sunlight for a week. Anything that can be killed without injury may be so treated. The walls and ceiling should be dry rubbed or have washed, and the floor washed with soap and water to which may be added a little carbolic acid.

When death occurs the body should be immediately placed in the coffin, with disinfectants, and the coffin tightly and closely closed.

No public funeral should ever take place at the house where the patient died, nor elsewhere, unless the coffin remains permanently sealed.

By direction of the Board of Health.

C. E. DAVIS, JR.

Clerk.