

author has observed the gradual re-establishment of movement in the paralyzed cord through the employment of systematic vocal exercises.

PIMILLA (Madrid). *Reflex Disturbances of the Nose, Throat, and Ears in Childhood.*

The histological differences which exist between the nervous system of the child and that of the adult explain the difference in the symptoms and the preponderance of reflexes in the former.

The presence of an undescribed laryngeal centre in the brain is sufficient explanation of the production of laryngeal spasm and stridulism. The theory of Cajal with regard to the function of the neuroglia as an isolater of nerve currents throws light on the frequency of reflex in childhood.

Aural, laryngeal, and pharyngeal reflexes are caused by rickets.

Tonsillar hypertrophy often enough disappears as a child grows up, and may yield to general treatment if no functional complications of importance or reflexes are present which necessitate surgical interference.

Aural, nasal, laryngeal, and pharyngeal reflexes are often prodromal symptoms of rickets.

Thoracic deformity in cases of nasal obstruction are oftener due to rickets than to an indirect or reflex influence.

URUNUELA (Madrid). *The Simplification of Tracheotomy.*

In every case of tracheotomy all that is required is a bistoury and a canula. It is an operation almost devoid of danger, and should be performed in the consulting room.

*Rueda (Waggett, Trans.).*

## ABSTRACTS.

### DIPHTHERIA, &C.

Békésy.—*Results of Diphtheria Treatment by Heilserum in Hungary.* "Wien. Klin. Rundschau," 1897, Nos. 16 and 17.

REPORT on nine thousand injections. Of all treated patients, 19·1 per cent. died. Before the treatment by serum the mortality of diphtheria is said to have been from forty to forty-three per cent. The mortality was—

In diphtheria of the pharynx ..... 13·4 per cent.

In diphtheria of the larynx ..... 38·7 per cent.

Mixed form ..... 42·1 per cent.

Undecided ..... 11·6 per cent.

Tracheotomy or intubation was performed in three hundred and seventy-two cases. One hundred and ninety cured; one hundred and eighty-two died (*i.e.*, a mortality of 48·9 per cent.). The author concludes that he does not think the heil-serum will give such a very great improvement in the treatment of diphtheria as many people think. All known and tried remedies of hygiene ought to be used to treat diphtheria.

*R. Sachs.*