trust, consider the proposition established, that there is not so commonly as is supposed any operative procedure for the treatment of these cases in which "no chance of danger is incurred".

MEANING OF THE TERMS DIPHTHERIA, CROUP, AND FAUX CROUP.

By SIR JOHN ROSE CORMACK, F.R.C.P.Lond., M.D.Paris.

IN my note on the History and Meaning of the Terms Diphtheria and Croup, published at page 544 of the JOURNAL of April 24th, I suggested that the prefixes diphtheritic, herpetic, spasmodic, and the like, are required so long as the word croup continues to be used by medical writers as a name for essentially different diseases. The propriety of this suggestion is illustrated by a criticism on my own statement in my paper, which is made by Dr. George Johnson at page 575 of the JOURNAL for May 1st.

He there says: "In the last number of the JOURNAL, Sir John Rose Cormack states that the spasmodic croup of English authors is the *faux* croup of the French. I have always believed, and I believe still, that the spasmodic croup of English authors is also the spasmodic croup of the French, its synonyms being laryngismus stridulus, crowing inspiration, thymic asthma." Dr. George Johnson adds, that "to speak of the *spasmodic croup* of the English as synonymous with the *false croup* of French writers is to introduce a new element of confusion into the discussion of the relations between croup and diphtheria". He says that the "*faux croup*" of the French is the "inflammatory croup" of English authors.

I correctly stated the meaning of the French term "*faux croup*". It is synonymous with our English terms "laryngismus stridulus" and "spasmodic croup". It is a "névrose", and not an "inflammation". I quote the following from p. 795 of the edition published in 1873 of the *Dictionnaire de Médecine et de Thérapeutique Médicale et Chirurgicale*, edited by Dr. Bouchut, Physician to the Hôpital des Enfants, and Dr. Desprès, Surgeon to the Hôpital Cochin.

"**LARYNGITE STRIDULEUSE, ou CROUPE SPASMODIQUE, ou FAUX CROUP.**—La laryngite striduleuse, maladie en apparence voisine du croup par l'âge des sujets où elle se montre, et par les accès de suffocation qui la caractérisent, n'est qu'une névrose du larynx greffée sur une laryngite aiguë."

"Une accès de suffocation apparaissant d'emblée, sans phénomènes précurseurs chez une jeune enfant endormi et bien portant, accompagné de toux sonore, avec conservation de la voix, également sonore et non croupale, disparaissant en quelques minutes ou en quelques heures, caractérise le *faux croup* ou laryngite striduleuse."

It is evident from this extract that Dr. George Johnson errs when he says a "new element of confusion" is introduced by considering "spasmodic croup" and "faux croup" as synonymous. When I assert the synonymy of the terms, I only state a fact.

The following is from the *Manuel de Pathologie* of Professor Tardieu, p. 144.

"**LARYNGITE STRIDULEUSE.**—Syn.: Faux croup (Guersant); angine striduleuse (Bretonneau); laryngite spasmodique (Rilliet et Barthez). Le spasme du larynx qui constitue à proprement parler l'un des éléments de la laryngite striduleuse peut exister seul, et n'en diffère alors que par l'absence du catarrhe laryngien primitif au concomitant."

The following is from the *Pathologie Interne* (vol. i, p. 300) of Monneret.

"**ANGINE STRIDULEUSE.**—Syn.: Faux croup, laryngite striduleuse, laryngite spasmodique.

"Spasme de muscles laryngiens; asthme de Millar, de Kopp; asthme thymique; spasme de la glotte; tétanos apnéen périodique; apnée spasmodique; laryngisme infantile.—*Nature.* L'absence de toute lésion des voies respiratoires.....Tels sont les traits principaux de la névrose que nous étudions."

The following is from the *Dictionnaire de Médecine* of Nysten, edited by Littré and Robin.

"**FAUX CROUP.**—Syn.: Pseudo-croup; croup spasmodique; laryngismus stridulus.....L'absence de inflammation," etc.

The following is an extract from the *Aide-Memoire* of Corlieu, the cram-book at present most in favour with the medical students of Paris.

"**LARYNGITE STRIDULEUSE, ou Faux Croup.** Pharynx et larynx à l'état normal, à peine rouges.....Ne pas confondre avec laryngite aiguë, ou laryngite pseudo-membraneuse, ou croup."

It will be observed that one of the mistakes against which the grinder warns the student is the mistake which Dr. George Johnson commits—the confounding "faux croup" with inflammation of the larynx.

In my former communication, I ought to have mentioned *laryngitis*, which most English writers call *croup*, but in which there is no false membrane.

I would add that my recommending the use of such explanatory prefixes as "spasmodic", "herpetic", and "diphtheritic", was merely an incidental suggestion of a simple means of giving lucidity and uniformity to the clinical descriptions of authors holding different views, and was not intended as a proposed reform in scientific nomenclature.

TRUE AND FALSE CROUP.

By JAMES RISDON BENNETT, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
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IT is not my wish to enter the lists in the interesting and important controversy now going on respecting the identity or non-identity of croup and diphtheria. But the criticism of Dr. George Johnson on Sir J. Rose Cormack's communication in the JOURNAL of April 24th, calls for notice. Dr. Johnson denies the accuracy of the statement that "the spasmodic croup of English authors is the *faux* croup of the French". This denial much surprised me, as, unless my memory deceived me, the term false croup used to be the common designation of the French for what has latterly been called by us "laryngismus stridulus". I, therefore, referred to Guersant, who, in the first edition of the *Dictionnaire de Médecine*, 1821, introduced the term false croup. In the second edition of the same work, 1835, art. croup, he thus speaks: "The name of false croup which I had introduced in the first edition of the *Dictionnaire de Médecine*, to supply the place of that of the acute asthma of Millar, which I thought ought to be abolished, because it has given rise to confusion and error, is certainly, as the critics have remarked, not very scientific; but my intention in proposing it was merely to associate a word which might be easily popularised with that of croup, which was already popular, and thus I wished to introduce into common language a distinction which I believe to be absolutely necessary. For the use of physicians, I shall more willingly adopt the expression of stridulous laryngitis admitted by M. Bretonneau" (Semple's Translation in Sydenham Society's *Memoirs on Diphtheria*, p. 210). The above passage is sufficient to prove that Sir John Rose Cormack's statement is correct; and also that Dr. Johnson is wrong, not only in his criticism thereon, but also in affirming that the "laryngite striduleuse" of the French is simply synonymous with the inflammatory croup of English authors. In reference to the latter term, however, it will, I think, be found that French authors employ it and the term laryngismus stridulus somewhat loosely. But Guersant, Bretonneau, and others certainly employ the term "false croup", stridulous laryngitis, "acute asthma", i.e., Millar's or thymic asthma (and, therefore, our laryngismus stridulus) as synonymous or nearly so. It is certain that Guersant, in the *Dictionnaire de Médecine*, second edition, speaks of "laryngites striduleuses" in the plural, and his first variety "laryngite striduleuse simple" is clearly our spasmodic croup, or "laryngismus stridulus". His second variety appears to be catarrhal laryngitis; and his third, I suppose, corresponds with Dr. Semple's "laryngitis stridulosa", or strictly acute inflammatory disease, but unattended with the exudation of false membrane. To a certain extent, therefore, Dr. Johnson may be right in affirming that *one* of the forms of the *faux* croup of the French is an inflammatory disease. In the new *Dictionnaire de Médecine et Chirurgie*, it is distinctly stated that under the term croup the writer comprises only those acute diseases of the larynx which are attended by pseudo-membranous exudations. All others are relegated to the class of false croup. Nysten, in his Dictionary, under the head "laryngisme", cites Marshall Hall as his authority for describing it as an example of reflex or diastaltic nervous action, and terms it "laryngisme striduleux". Under the head of "*faux* croup", he gives as synonyms, pseudo-croup, "croup spasmodique", laryngismus stridulus.

At all events, and this is the main purport of my communication, it is, in my opinion, highly desirable, for the sake of the public, as well as for the profession, that the term "false croup" should be applied and restricted to the spasmodic disease which is commonly called "crowing inspiration", or simply "croup". Sir Thomas Watson, with his usual felicitous use of the English language calls this "bastard croup", or "spurious croup". I would willingly adopt the latter term and speak of "spurious croup"; but for the public I think "false croup" is even better, for I suppose we cannot discard the word "croup". Whichever term be used, we thereby clearly separate from all other forms of laryngeal affection one, whatever may be its pathology, which is not inflammatory, is not attended by any form of inflammatory exudation, is not contagious, and, for the most part, is a far less serious malady, and which moreover, and this is of the highest practical im-