

before they have passed out of the papular stage. Patient, when out of bed, had cold limbs and a sunken countenance; and when he attempted to stand, or walk, tottered.

The smell, which is often spoken of in small-pox, is quite avoidable by careful cleanliness.

In referring the case to my senior Nurses, they said they had never nursed a case in which delirium lasted so long, and believed it gave little hope of his recovery. He soon gained strength, and was able to take exercise daily, going out on deck, and on shore to a field used by convalescent patients, and during convalescence was busy taking seeds out of his feet and hands. These seeds are the pustules under the thick cuticle of the palms and soles.

Examination is made to see they have all been removed before leaving the Hospital; if any were left in, the patient would still be contagious, and a patient is considered free from infection when the last of these has been removed.

The patient was discharged on the 29th of October, saying he had never felt so well and strong, very few scars remaining to mark his serious illness. He returned to his home in Derby.

I have briefly indicated a Nurse's work in ministering to a patient suffering from small-pox. When first beginning small-pox nursing, I must admit that I felt some repulsion at the sight of a human being swollen and covered with pustules, and even disliked to touch them. But it is remarkable how this feeling passes off, and is replaced by a strange fascination overpowering one, and impelling one irresistibly to comfort and aid the victims of this truly terrible disease. It is like the feeling, I suppose, that would make one plunge into the water to save a drowning child. One feels that one can do so much to relieve their sufferings by all the little kindnesses that make up the extras of Nursing. What most soothes the patients is their knowing that they are not regarded as repulsive by their fellow-creatures; and so, at times, the visits of relations do great harm by their inability to conceal how the disease repels them.

There is, probably, no Nursing work so absorbing as work in a Small-pox Hospital, for the Nurse can realise the value of her services in bringing comfort to the distressed, and in doing what she knows others cannot do.

We are asked to suggest improvements for the future, and, unfortunately, there is much room for such.

Firstly, I would suggest some sort of arrangement, whereby, on the outbreak of an epidemic, skilled and experienced Nursing might be provided.

I think this could be done by every Nurse being required to spend a portion of her training at Fever and Small-pox Hospitals. It would be a blessing to both the patients and the Nurses, and no doubt tend to reduce the death-rate.

I also think that the more general use of vinegar and water, to sponge the patients with when they are inclined to scratch themselves—which they sometimes do to such an extent as to cover the bed-clothes with blood—is worth a trial. I remember a little boy (a patient), when told not to scratch himself, as it would do him so much harm, saying: "Well, then, why don't you put some vinegar and water on?" This was done, and he immediately stopped scratching: it seemed to put an end to the irritability.

Another point in Nursing is to be very considerate about exposing patients during the time they are being washed. They are apt to get a chill, and are very liable to attacks of pleurisy. In painting the body we use an inch flat camel-hair brush; only a part is done at a time, and that allowed to dry before it is covered up. Also, after giving patients a bath—(I have forgotten to mention that this patient had three or four baths at the temperature of the body, and during the time he was most ill)—the blankets should be well heated, and the patient not put into sheets for an hour or so after. The bath has a really wonderful effect, especially on children; the little ones splash about, and feel comparatively happy in the warm water, even when they cannot see, and their bodies are covered with the eruption. I think it is the best treatment for sleeplessness and delirium, as they go to sleep almost immediately they are put back into bed.

### "THE MACCLENNY NURSES."

*\*\* We have much pleasure in acceding to a request made to us by an American reader, and reprinting the following address, recently published by Miss Clara Barton, the President of the American Association of the Red Cross, as a tribute to those brave men and women who devoted themselves to nursing the towns lately infected by cholera in the United States.*

**D**URING the fourth week in November a despatch to National Headquarters announced that the last band of Red Cross Nurses, known as the MacClenny Nurses, had finished their work at Enterprise, and would come into Camp Perry to wait their ten days' quarantine, and go home to New Orleans for Thanksgiving.

Seventy-nine days ago that would mean that their little company of eighteen, mainly women,

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