

never forget that, though perfectly incapable of helping himself, her patient is sensible of all going on around him.

Another less formidable, but very unpleasant, disorder to which the nervous system is liable, is *Chorea*, or St. Vitus' Dance. There is no loss of consciousness, and no fever, but there is an irregular and involuntary contraction of some of the muscles, which are not, however, wholly withdrawn from the government of the will. *Chorea* generally occurs in young girls from six to fifteen years of age, who are for the most part particularly sensitive, or what is called nervous.

The grotesque contortions of the muscles are not confined to those of the face, but extend to arms, legs, &c.

Fright is often a cause of *chorea*, and it is liable also to be propagated by a sort of contagious or rather of involuntary imitation.

In the treatment of *chorea* iron is often given, and great attention will have to be paid by the Nurse to the state of the child's bowels, and if a shower-bath is ordered, it should be very carefully administered so as not to frighten her.

The presence of worms and the state of the secretions should also be carefully noted.

(To be continued.)

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I AM requested to remind my readers of the very interesting paper, which will be read before the meeting of the B.N.A., to-morrow, Friday, evening, at eight p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, by Dr. Cullingworth—the Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital—on "Obstetric Nursing." As this, moreover, is the last meeting of the session, a full gathering of Members may be expected.

I AM extremely glad to hear of the most successful Drawing-Room Meetings held last week in support of the Registration scheme of the British Nurses' Association. The first was held last Friday, the 10th inst., at five p.m., by kind permission of Mrs. Head, at 13, Craven Hill Gardens, and was attended by a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen, including several well-known Medical men and women. The REV. MR. WRIGHTSON, who took the Chair, opened the proceedings by expressing the very general feeling of sympathy with Nurses, which pervaded all ranks. He came, like most of the audience, to learn, and

therefore he would ask whether, if the Registration of Nurses was obtained, the public would secure greater efficiency and economy in Nursing. He wished to hear also why the Association needed a Royal Charter. He had heard a good deal against the scheme, but he was glad of this opportunity of hearing the other side, and so would call on Miss Wood to propose the first resolution.

MISS WOOD then read and formally proposed the following resolution, which I hear is to be brought forward in the same form at each of these meetings: "That in view of the great and increasing importance of skilled Nursing in sickness, and the fact that the public at present is quite powerless to protect itself against ignorant and inefficient Nurses, this meeting pledges itself to support, by every means in its power, the efforts of the British Nurses' Association to obtain a Royal Charter for the purpose of legalising the Registration of Trained Nurses."

MISS WOOD pointed out that hundreds of women now entered Hospitals as Probationers, of whom, after a short time, many were found quite unfitted for the work, and consequently were advised to resign, or were even discharged. It was known that a great many of these at once began Private Nursing, and called themselves Hospital-trained Nurses, although their Hospitals had considered them unfit for training. It was known, moreover, that there were many other women who had had even less experience of Hospital work than these had, who still pretended in like manner to be fully trained. If the importance of skilled Nursing in sickness was admitted, it was plain that this unskilled attendance must be bad, and certainly the results of which they heard were very bad indeed. But these spurious Nurses brought discredit on the good name of the whole body of Nurses, and made those who had once experienced the tender mercies of one of these women shrink from the idea of ever employing a Nurse again.

To remedy this hardship and injustice to a class of most deserving women some steps certainly should be taken. But the public were the chief sufferers from these impostors, and therefore the question was one upon which the public must arouse itself and take action. Miss Wood, at some length, explained that the Nurses' Association was in no sense or manner a Trades' Union. It did not propose in the slightest to interfere between employers and employed, for in such a calling as Nursing nothing would do more

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)