

The treatment of erysipelas varies according to whether it inclines to an inflammatory or a low type. The sort we generally see in Hospitals is of the latter class, and requires wine and nourishment. A purge will be usually administered, and nauseating diaphoretics, such as ipecacuanha, &c. Lemonade or soda water will be gratefully taken by a patient.

It is customary to dust over the inflamed parts with dry absorbent powders, such as starch, flour, or chalk. Sometimes warm poultices are used with great success, and sometimes cold spirituous applications to young persons, where the inflammatory action is strong. By many surgeons collodion is preferred to any other application, and should, if used, be painted over the parts likely to be overflowed by the erysipelatous discharges in order to protect them. Erysipelas is very infectious, perhaps more so to the other patients in the Ward than to the Nurse in attendance, for it is more apt to attack persons in a weak state of health. A case of the kind is generally removed to a Ward reserved for the purpose; but Nurses have occasionally to take charge of doubtful cases in the same room with patients suffering from other disorders. It is impossible that she can be too careful in changing her apron, cuffs, &c., and in washing her hands in some disinfectant after attending upon an erysipelas patient before proceeding to another case. If possible, she should always take the erysipelas case last. Closely allied to erysipelas is erythema, a superficial inflammation of the skin, called sometimes inflammatory blush, which has several varieties. When it is of an evanescent, fleeting character, it is called *fugax*; but there is another kind, which is marked by ring-like patches, and another still when the edges are well defined. The treatment of erythema much resembles erysipelas, and though it is not generally believed to be infectious, there will be no harm in a Nurse using the ordinary precautionary measures.

Eczema is another disease of the skin, of which there are a great many varieties. It is a cutaneous vesicular complaint, which sometimes completely covers the legs or arms. The treatment varies much according to the Medical man under whom the case is placed; ointments of various kinds are generally applied, and daily vapour baths are very constantly ordered. One form of eczema, with which, I am afraid, you will have occasionally to do, more especially if you are much in the children's Wards, is due to scabies. Here the eczema is excited by the presence of a very minute animalcule. Itch is produced by want of cleanliness, in the first instance, but is very easily conveyed by infection.

There is another class of skin disease, of which

herpes or shingles forms one variety, and the different kinds of ringworm another; but there is nothing in the Nurse's duties which especially calls for comment, except to recommend to her in discharging them, the most minute and scrupulous cleanliness, both as regards her patients and the ablution of her own hands, &c., after attending to them.

Perhaps there is one word more which may be said. Skin diseases are often attended with great mental irritability. Patients are not often ill enough to command a great deal of pity, but they greatly stand in need of a kind Nurse's sympathy; and it must be remembered that they are generally morbidly sensitive to the more or less loathsome character of the disease from which they are suffering, and keenly, even *fancifully*, alive to any manifestation of disgust on the part of the Nurse.

Though I do not think it necessary to tell you anything of the diseases to which either are subject, I will conclude this chapter by mentioning that both the hair and the nails are appendages of the skin.

The texture of the hair resembles that of the cuticle, each hair consisting of a series of cells. When a hair is drawn out from its bed, it is found to be deeply set in the true skin, and into the fat beneath. This bed is called the hair follicle, and at its bottom is a small conical projection of the true skin, a *papilla*, from which the hair grows, just as ordinary cuticle is produced from the surface of the cutis.

The nails are also a development of the cuticle; but here the scales are very closely compacted, so as to form a very hard and horny substance. A nail grows much in the same way that the hair does.

(To be continued.)

HOSPITAL MEMORIES.—No. IV.

"CHILDREN I HAVE MET."

ONCE had a passing acquaintance with a little man, who was pronounced by the Sergeant of Police to be "well known to us, and about the worst boy of his age in all London." This interesting individual was not six—about five and a-half I think—and rejoiced in the name of Willie—a bright-eyed, merry little boy, with the most fascinating ways, and alas! an inveterate propensity for strong drink. Many a time, as the police assured us, they found him in the public-houses of the neighbourhood, and carried him home dead drunk.

Naturally, Willie had no money, nor would the

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