

With respect to the second cause of injury to the arm—intense congestion—it may be brought about at birth, through a rare and unavoidable accident, that in midwifery we call prolapse of the arm, that from some cause or another slips from its normal position, and down before the head into the vagina. Delivery in this complication may be effected in three ways, viz.: 1st, version; 2nd, forceps; 3rd, natural efforts. Now, it is in this last which, in ignorant hands, is apt to lead to the evil we are discussing; firstly, from allowing the arm to remain in a dependent position too long; secondly, from the great pressure to which it is subject during the birth of the head. It is a long time (it may be several weeks) before the circulation in the arm is restored, and it keeps dusky, cold, and powerless. Friction, warmth, and support to the arm are about the best remedies for the disaster.

Congenital mal-formations of the lower extremities.—The feet may have supernumerary toes, or be webbed as the fingers are, but the writer never saw a *double* great toe, on the lines of a double thumb. Or there may be rudimentary or supplementary toes attached to the little toes, which we ligature off like the fingers. I once delivered a patient of a baby girl who had five fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot—a sort of female Goliath of Gath—who methought might prove a doughty champion of Women's Rights in the future; and a perfect treasure to the "Shrieking Sisterhood" of the twentieth century. The said S.S.'s would very likely be reduced to a state of abject terror by the unexpected appearance of a little mouse—who, *not* having been invited to address the meeting, dispersed it instead.

Deformities of the feet and lower limbs are of great interest and importance in midwifery nursing, because they are amenable to surgical (orthopædic) measures almost from birth, and the success of all treatment largely depends upon *good* nursing and common sense. When we consider that from infancy to age the weight of the body is borne upon the feet and legs, we see how necessary it is that they should be composed of strong and sound material; and that material is bone, which consists of two portions, an animal and a mineral constituent; the former is called gelatine or jelly, the latter, for the most part, is made up of phosphate of lime. All the cartilaginous tissues, which are largely associated with bones in the joints, are principally gelatine. We all know that if we subject bones to prolonged boiling, we extract the gelatine or jelly from them—the animal portion; if, on the other hand, bones are subjected to fire-heat and calcined, they are

reduced to a powder, and that powder is phosphate and carbonate of lime, the former being nearly five times greater than the latter. In infancy and childhood the *animal* constituent of bone is in excess of the mineral, hence the bones are softer and more pliable than in adult life. From these few facts there is one obvious inference to be drawn, that, in order to form good bone, we must begin at the beginning, and supply it with suitable material from birth. A distinguished living Authoress has written (not an hour too soon) upon brain-starved children. May we not also call attention to bone starved children?

(To be continued.)

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.



MEMBERS of the R.B.N.A. will rejoice to know that their President has left England for a much needed rest. Princess CHRISTIAN, attended by Lady EDWARD CAVENDISH, is travelling *incognita* as the Countess GRAFENSTEIN, and has gone to Bad Nauheim, near Frankfort, in Germany, where, it is to be hoped, she will enjoy a complete rest. Her Royal Highness is expected home at the end of October.

THERE is a charming picture of Princess CHRISTIAN in last week's *Queen*, and a most sympathetic and intelligent article concerning the work and aspirations of the R.B.N.A. It is so well worth reading that I will only quote a few extracts from it for the benefit of my readers abroad who may not be able to see our contemporary:—"To all women the maintenance of the honourable estate and the usefulness of the Nursing profession are subjects of no merely abstract interest, but of direct and vital importance. Alike to those who are Nurses and to those whose lives and health are in the hands of Nurses, it is of consequence that the efficiency of the profession should be raised to its highest attainable standard. We therefore feel little doubt that the majority of our readers have accorded their deepest sympathy to the efforts which the Royal British Nurses' Association has made on behalf

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