

LECTURE 8.—*Hospital Establishments*.—Ambulances; reception of sick; wards; size and accommodation; warming, lighting, ventilation, and decoration of wards; ward-offices; lying-in hospitals; cottage hospitals; pavilion hospitals; epidemic hospitals; refuges, and retaining houses.

LECTURE 9.—*Trades and Occupations* in relation to health.

LECTURE 10.—Brief and simple exposé of *Sanitary Laws* in relation to infectious diseases.

### SYLLABUS OF THE SECOND COURSE.

#### LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON SURGICAL CASES.

Lecturer—JAMES A. ADAMS, M.D., F.F.P.S., Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.

A series of Discourses and Practical Demonstrations in Surgery, specially designed for Nurses, will be given within the wards of the Royal Infirmary at such hours of the morning as may be found most suitable.

A Class will meet daily, and will be instructed in (1), Bandaging; (2), Dressing of Wounds and Ulcers; (3), Preparation of Dressings; (4), Application of Splints and Immovable Apparatus; (5), Antiseptics; (6), Care and Knowledge of Instruments; (7), Massage; and (8), Electricity.

A few meetings will be devoted to fractures, dislocations, arrest of hemorrhage, and minor surgical operations.

#### LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON MEDICAL CASES,

Lecturer—J. WALLACE ANDERSON, M.D., F.F.P.S., Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

This course, though partly systematic, will in the main consist of a series of demonstrations in medical nursing on the cases in the wards of the lecturer. His general idea and object will be to teach the nurse such things as bear directly on her duties, or are likely to help her to take a more intelligent interest in her work as a whole.

The plan or scope of the Course will be as follows:—  
1. The various features of disease that are to be observed and recorded. 2. The nursing of particular diseases. 3. The emergencies of certain diseases, and when medical aid should be sought. 4. The medical nursing of children. 5. The administration of medicines: dietetics, and regimenal treatment generally as directed by the physician. 6. The reporting of the case to the physician.

#### PRACTICAL LECTURES ON WARD WORK AND COOKERY.

By Mrs. STRONG, Matron, assisted by Miss BELL, Housekeeper.

1. Introductory. 2. Cleaning Ward Appliances. 3. Preparation of Solutions. 4. Washing Helpless Patients. 5. Preparation of Beds. Packs. 6. Surgical Dressings. 7. Massage. 8. Massage. 9. Enemata. Keeping of Evacuations. 10. Thermometers. Cleaning Instruments. Four Demonstration Lessons in Cookery. Six Practical Lessons in the same.

We hear that the Classes are much appreciated. The January Class for 1894 has been filled for some time past, and six pupils are already enrolled for the October Session, 1894.

## Medical Matters.

### ALKALOIDS OF DISEASE AND DECAY.



NOT many years ago, the chemical compounds, known as *alkaloids*, of which, morphia, quinine, strychnine and nicotine are examples, were believed to occur only in the vegetable kingdom. More recently, similar compounds, in many cases of a highly poisonous nature, have been proved to exist in decomposing meat and also in the living body during the course of infectious diseases. In both cases they are due to the existence of bacteria, which feed on the proteid compounds of the body (whether living or dead), and from the proteid material elaborate the alkaloids or *ptomains*. A large number of these so-called corpse alkaloids or ptomains have been separated from decomposing beef and horse-flesh. When administered to animals, one of these produced symptoms resembling those of strychnine poisoning, while another acted like *curare* (the well-known arrow poison of the South American Indians) in paralysing the ends of the motor nerves. It is noteworthy that all these alkaloids of decomposition appear much more virulent in their effects when injected into the blood, than when taken into the alimentary canal; two of them, *putrescine* and *cadaverine*, even appear innocuous when in the alimentary canal, although they are highly poisonous when injected. The fact that some of these bodies are extremely harmful, when taken internally, has been clearly shown by Dr. Ballard, who has investigated many cases of disease consequent on eating un-sound food. He reports that "In infected food capable of producing disease on being eaten, we find one or both of two things—a living microscopic organism, and an organic chemical poison of greater or less virulence. Of these two things, that which is immediately operative in the production of the morbid phenomena, is the chemical poison which is a product of the processes of bacterial life. Given the bacterium and favourable environment, the bacterium may grow, multiply, and produce its own special chemical poison from the material which affords it nourishment, either outside the body or within it." Dr. Ballard also accounts for the presence or absence of an incubation period, pointing out that the poisoning symptoms may be due to a compound already present in the food at the time of its ingestion, or to a compound developed in the body, and requiring time for its elaboration, but caused by bacteria introduced with the food. Dr. A. B. Griffiths has shown that infectious diseases are caused in a similar manner,

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