

crowded tenements, and are fed upon improper nourishment, pathological researches are supported by well-known social facts, and it is, therefore, clear that it is in the betterment of the dwellings of the poor, of the sanitary arrangements of their homes, and of the purity of their food supplies, that we must trust for the prevention of the most fatal disease which is known in this country.

RUPTURES.

An American surgeon has recently published some interesting and important statistics concerning the relative frequency of the different forms of hernia. He quotes nearly 20,000 cases which were treated in the New York Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled patients, and his figures undoubtedly coincide with those of previous observers. Nearly 17,000 of the cases were inguinal, nearly 1,500 umbilical, and only 1,100 femoral herniæ, the remainder being ventral ruptures. The proportion of the sexes afflicted in this manner is also brought out very plainly, 16,000 being men—that is to say, four men are affected with rupture to every woman. This is a fact which is, of course, explicable when it is remembered that the great cause of the accident is violent straining, and that the mechanical work in which the labouring classes are occupied falls more heavily upon the male than the female. A somewhat interesting detail is also brought out by these figures, inasmuch as the proportion of ruptures on the right side was nearly twice as great as on the left, a fact of which, so far as we remember, we have seen no adequate statement or explanation. In these figures, again, it is a curious fact that there were almost precisely the same number of double ruptures as of cases in which the left side was alone affected; which, again, would seem to emphasise the greater frequency with which the right side is implicated. So far as the different forms of hernia go, the figures in question confirm the common experience of medical men in this country—nearly 15,000 cases of inguinal herniæ being males, and only about 1,900 being females. On the other hand, there were more than 700 females attacked by femoral herniæ, as against about 400 males who suffered from that complaint. And, again, as might be expected, more than 900 women had umbilical herniæ, as compared with less than 600 men; and, in ventral hernia, there were two women to every man thus affected. It is an interesting fact that these figures show that more than 5,000 of these patients, that is to say, one quarter of the whole number, were children under fourteen years of age. So far as the treatment of these cases is concerned, the author very wisely directs special attention towards the relief or cure of the condition which caused the hernia—a principle which there

is, unfortunately, reason to believe is not invariably adopted. For example, in some cases of bronchitis, mechanical treatment by means of trusses has often proved quite useless to cure the rupture until the cough, which produced it, had been alleviated or removed. In the case of children, constipation is a frequent cause not only of rupture, by the straining, but of the failure of trusses to maintain the replaced bowel. Attention to this often overlooked matter makes all the difference between success or failure in the treatment of these cases.

National Health Society.



The Gold Medal of the National Health Society will be presented to H.R.H. Princess Christian, at Grosvenor House, on the 7th June, at 4.30 p.m.; and on the same occasion Her Grace the Duchess of Westminster will award the Silver Medals and Certificates to those who have successfully passed the examinations held during the past season by the Society.

Dr. Lackie, who recently conducted the examinations of the Society at Haddington, has sent a singularly favourable report on the high standard of efficiency reached by all candidates for certificates.

Dr. Lackie considers that they were especially strong in the practical part of the lectures, which he considers the most important.

At the five centres in Surrey where lectures had been given, out of 146 candidates 107 passed in Nursing, First Aid, and Hygiene, at the examinations held on the 18th April; and on the 17th and 18th April, a large number of prizes were awarded to successful competitors in the Cookery Classes.

On Thursdays in May and June, at 3 p.m., Mrs. Dickson will give a series of Homely Talks on "First Aid" at Miss Wight's Girls' School, Cavendish House, Cavendish Road, St. John's Wood, N.W.

Miss Alice Ravenhill, one of the most successful of the Society's Lecturers, has been appointed Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and has commenced her responsible duties.

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