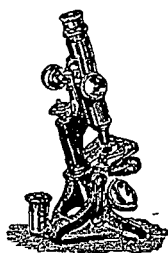


room to the Nurse, *IT is an intelligent creature.*" It seems to me that before anything can be definitely arranged as to the best method of testing the knowledge of a Nurse, that her education must be much more definitely defined, and some aim at uniformity attempted. At present, the system of examination after stated periods of lectures and study is usually undertaken by the teacher, who is teacher and examiner in one, and this appears to me to be a very undesirable system, and one by which Nurses will never acquire the best education.—Yours truly,

A YOUNG MATRON.

Medical Matters.

HERNIA IN INFANTS.



We recently commented upon the large number of children who suffered from herniæ under fourteen years of age, but in a German contemporary, a collection of cases has recently been published in which strangulation of the hernia, necessitating operation, had occurred in children of only a few months' old. Out of 153 cases, indeed, no less than 110 were less than 12 months' old. Of the total number, 138 were inguinal, and 14 were umbilical herniæ, only one being of the femoral variety. An interesting point which has been brought out by these figures, is that the mortality after these operations has, since the introduction of the antiseptic system, been reduced by quite 12 per cent., and there can be little doubt that with improved methods and improved nursing, the percentage of deaths in cases in which the operation is sufficiently early performed, will be much more reduced. The mortality amongst children, there is reason to believe, is, contrary to the general opinion, somewhat less than amongst adults. The practical point for Nurses to remember is this considerable frequency of the affection amongst infants, and it would be well, therefore, for them to notice most carefully, and to report at once, any sign of enlargement at any of the ordinary sites of rupture.

MOLLITIES OSSIIUM.

Some well marked cases of this disease—softening of the bones, due, it is believed to the loss of lime salts from the patient's system—were recently brought before the Obstetrical Society of Vienna, and one of which illustrates very clearly the close connection which exists between this condition and pregnancy. A woman, who had suffered for five years from the affection, always became markedly worse during pregnancy, and much better after its conclusion. In her last pregnancy, tetany set in and remained

for some time after labour. There seems to be, from the cases which were narrated, a curious connection between tetany and mollities ossium, and spasms occurred for some length of time in each case, chiefly during the confinement, but in several instances for a month before and for some weeks after that took place.

DOUBLE FEVERS.

Some rare cases have recently been published in which, at the same time, the patient suffered from more than one infectious complaint; the exception proving the rule that only one such disease occurs contemporaneously. The most interesting of these cases is that of a boy, six years of age, who appeared to be suffering from scarlet fever, but whose temperature after desquamation still remained high. Diarrhœa then set in and the diagnosis of typhoid fever was made. An interesting and probably unique point is that the sister of this boy was infected by him with scarlet fever, and, later on, the father, who helped to nurse the lad, was attacked by typhoid fever, and went through a typical course of the disease.

ELECTRICITY IN FIBROIDS.

This treatment, which was some years ago introduced and strenuously advocated by Professor Apostoli, of Paris, and which received its fair share of comment and experiment in this country, has, by many of those who originally recommended it, been altogether discarded. It was found that not only did uterine fibroids not contract in the remarkable manner which was expected and prophesied from the use of this method, but that no considerable number of cases the patient was rendered worse rather than better. In some few cases, indeed, the fatal result which followed was ascribed to the destructive effects upon the new growth of the electrical current. A case is now reported in a French medical contemporary of a woman who died somewhat suddenly a few days after the application of this treatment. At the post mortem, there was found to be suppuration of the left tube and ovary, and, although the signs of pulmonary embolism were very marked, unfortunately, the diagnosis of this as the cause of death was not verified by an examination of the lungs. In view of the other conditions which were discovered, it does not appear to us to be proved that in this case the treatment was responsible for the result, and although we do not consider the method either scientific or successful, this particular case does not appear to furnish conclusive evidence by itself that electrolysis is dangerous. That has been proved by quite sufficient and irrefutable facts without needing a doubtful case like this to condemn its employment.

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