

as far as possible. The great difficulty after this operation is to prevent too rapid closing of the opened lips, because if left to itself, the wound would simply unite, the canal would be closed as completely as before, and the patient would obtain no benefit from the operation. Some gynæcologists prevent this by various modifications of the operation; others by separating the edges of the wound every second day; others, again, by directing the Nurse to pass a speculum so as to expose the cervix, and then to pack the cervical opening with a strip of gauze, which is left in position for twenty-four hours, then removed, and, after a free injection, the wound is again packed; this treatment being continued for ten days or a fortnight. In any case, whatever is done, is for the same reason—the separation of the lips as widely as possible until their apposed surfaces have healed over.

A very frequent procedure is that which is known as Emmet's operation—so called from the name of the distinguished American surgeon, who not only strongly advocated it, but, to a large extent, perfected its details. This is done in order to close a lacerated surface, caused during labour, either by the employment of instruments, or in consequence of the head of the child tearing through the cervical tissue, and in consequence of which a form of enlargement and thickening of the whole cervix takes place. The operation is precisely similar to that which is performed for hare lip, and consists in denuding the scar tissue as to leave a healthy surface on each side of the laceration. These edges being brought together, and so maintained by strong sutures, the cervix is reduced to its original appearance and shape. The wound, as a rule, heals quickly and well, but most operators prefer, after the second or third day, that the vagina should be well irrigated with some warm anti-septic lotion. The stitches, as a rule, are left in until the eighth or ninth day, and are then carefully withdrawn; but it is necessary to continue the injections for some days longer,

Belonging to the same class of *plastic* operations, as they are termed, are several which are performed at the vaginal orifice, and again represent the result of injuries after labour. Of these, the most common is the operation for rupture of the perineum. When this is torn back, it may be even through the sphincter of the anus and through the rectal wall, extreme discomfort, and even danger, may be caused to the patient, and an operation for the repair of the injury may, sooner or later, become imperative. But even in ordinary cases, where the tear is not so severe as this, the vagina loses the base of support to its muscular walls, and these, therefore, tend to relax or to produce the condition which is usually termed *prolapsus*, or falling of the uterus, although, as a general rule, as we shall see

hereafter, this term is not strictly accurate, the vaginal walls chiefly, if not alone, being affected. The discomfort, however, even with a slight laceration of the perineum, is quite sufficient to make the patient's life miserable, and so render an operation advisable in order to enable her to take sufficient active exercise to maintain her general health.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE Autumn Session of Educational Lectures to be delivered at 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., and which are under the immediate patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian the President, are now finally settled to take place on the following dates and times:—

Elementary Anatomy.—Twelve Lectures by W. J. Walsham, F.R.C.S.,

on Tuesdays, commencing October 2nd, at 4.30 p.m.

Physiology.—Twelve Lectures by A. Schofield, M.D., on Wednesdays, commencing October 3rd, at 4 p.m.

Hygiene.—Twelve Lectures by Louis C. Parkes, M.D., D.P.H., M.O.H. Chelsea, on Thursdays, commencing October 4th, at 4.30 p.m.

Practical Nursing.—Twelve Lectures by Miss Isla Stewart (Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital), on Mondays, commencing October 1st, at 4 p.m.

Ward Management and Domestic Economy.—Six Lectures by Miss de Pledge (Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary), on alternate Fridays, commencing October 12th, at 4 p.m.

Terms:—For the Complete Educational Course, £8 8s.; for One Course of Lectures, £2 2s.; for a Single Lecture, 5s. For Members and those engaged in practical nursing, Half Fees.

At the close of each Course an Examination will be held, and certificates granted. H.R.H. Princess Christian has graciously signified her intention of bestowing a prize on the Nurse who, after having attended the lectures and examination, shall show herself most proficient in the subject of Practical Nursing.

Owing to a misprint in the last issue of the NURSING RECORD, a small brooch is stated to have been *found*, not *lost*, which is unfortunately the case. The owner is most anxious for its recovery, and it is hoped some member may have been sufficiently fortunate to have found the little trinket.

In spite of the prevailing holiday season, members of the Bazaar Committee, under the sanction of H.R.H. the President, are actively engaged in organising all the arrangements. At present, few details can be given. H.R.H. the President has graciously signified her intention of presiding over a large central stall, together with H.R.H. Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and assisted by Lady Jeune and Lady Duckworth. Miss Isla Stewart, of St. Bartholomew's, has kindly undertaken the Tea-room, and Miss de Pledge, of Chelsea Infirmary, will probably hold a Dairy Stall. Stalls, furnished and officered by the General, Special,

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