

It is of great importance that the industrial classes should make some provision for this contingency, since otherwise their limited resources are easily crippled by the expense of medical attendance and nursing, if these have to be paid for at the usual rates. Even one serious illness or accident in a family may absorb the earnings of many weeks or months.

The difficulty is not satisfactorily solved by hospitals, free dispensaries, free nursing institutions or poor-law relief, nor should the self-respecting working man be willing to resort to charitable institutions for the treatment of the ordinary ailments that occur in every family.

The only satisfactory solution is to be found in the adoption of the principles of mutual assurance. Such principles, as embodied in Provident Dispensaries and Clubs, have for many years past been recognised as far as medical attendance is concerned, but the time has come when they should be also adopted in the provision of nursing, since there is no more reason why skilled service should be given in the form of free nursing than in the form of free medical attendance.

Nursing is frequently as important as professional attendance. Indeed the doctor and the nurse should be regarded as twin forces, each of which, apart from the other, loses half its value.

Dr. Hurry next described a model organisation for supplying the wage-earning classes with both professional and nursing attendance on a co-operative self-supporting basis. Such a basis allows those classes, on terms well within their means, to insure such attendance in the time of illness, and to pay a fair remuneration to both doctor and nurse. At the same time habits of thrift, self-reliance and healthy independence are fostered, habits which purely charitable institutions unhappily do much to under-mine. The principle upon which the model Institution is established is one of mutual assurance. Each member, by paying a small sum regularly and in advance, is guaranteed professional attendance, medicines, nursing care and the use of nursing appliances when sick, subject to the rules of the Institution. Other persons who have not joined in advance will be entitled to the same benefits, when sick, but in their case an entrance fee will be exacted.

The premium required from ordinary members will vary according to local circumstances, but 2d.-3d. a week will suffice to maintain the Institution, when fairly afloat, on a self-supporting basis.

The question may be asked:—Will not such a scheme prevent the necessitous and improvident poor from obtaining the great boon of medical and nursing care in the time of sickness? The reply is that such cases should be dealt with by the Poor law Guardians, who have power to provide doctors as well as nurses for the indigent. Moreover if further provision is required, it is quite practicable to establish a charitable side of the Institution for the "submerged," without destroying its self-supporting character as a whole.

Organisations should be established on these principles in every centre of population, and would confer great and far-reaching benefits. By helping the industrial classes to help themselves, by bringing skilful medical and nursing care within their reach on terms within their means, by raising the standard of comfort in the home, such Institutions must powerfully promote social progress, national health and the general welfare.

Professional Review.

A MANUAL OF NURSING, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.

WE have received from Messrs. Charles Griffin and Company, of Exeter Street, Strand, a copy of the new edition of Dr. Laurence Humphry's Manual of Medical and Surgical Nursing, price 3s. 6d. The book which is justly popular with nurses has been entirely revised, and new matter has been added, more especially in the Surgical chapters. We feel sure, that the manual would form an acceptable Christmas gift to any probationer or nurse who does not already possess it.

The first chapter deals with the management of the sick room, and the nurse's duties in this connection. Some excellent rules with regard to the administration of medicines are given, and also the symptoms following the use of certain drugs. The next chapter is devoted to anatomy, and some excellent diagrams illustrate the text. Then follows the nervous system. First a brief description of the brain and spinal cord, and then an account of nervous diseases, their symptoms and management. The same order is adopted in succeeding chapters, first the anatomical description of a part is given, and then the diseases, to which it is liable, and their treatment, in so far as this concerns nurses.

One chapter is devoted to fevers, infectious and non-infectious. Directions are given as to the precautions to be used by the nurse in attending to cholera cases, and the instructions issued by the Local Government Board for the Prevention of Cholera are given in detail.

The chapter on the Diseases of Children will be valuable both to those whose work lies specially amongst children, and to those who, educated in general hospitals, feel that their knowledge with regard to the nursing of children is defective.

Considerable space is devoted to wounds, and their complications, and ulcers, burns and scalds, and another to fractures, their nature and signs, practical instructions to the nurse in rendering first aid, and then the symptoms and management of the different varieties of fractures. Operations and special surgical cases are also dealt with, and one chapter is devoted to maternity nursing. The notes on appliances, dealing with baths, hot, warm and cold, hot air and vapour baths, wet packs, the various syringes and douches, are also valuable. There is an excellent illustration of an ice cradle, the tray which is attached to this being far more convenient for the application of ice, for the reduction of temperature, than the ordinary ice bags or pails suspended from the cradle. Rules for the application of bandages, accompanied by illustrations, are given, and space is devoted to artificial respiration, massage and electricity, so that a very wide ground is covered.

The book closes with an appendix, devoted to cookery for invalids in which some excellent recipes are given.

There is no doubt that Dr. Humphry's book meets a want, and the author is to be congratulated on the continued demand for his manual which maintains its popularity although there are now many other excellent handbooks available for the use of nurses, and which is now in its eighteenth edition.

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