

used is Fehling's solution. Fill a test-tube a quarter full with the solution and boil the whole of it. This is necessary, because sometimes if it be not fresh, a precipitate forms which may be mistaken for that due to sugar. If no discoloration occurs, add urine up to half the tube, shake, and boil the upper part of the mixture. A reddish-yellow or orange precipitate indicates the presence of sugar. Some concentrated urines which do not contain sugar may cause the same precipitate to appear, so that if the urine be very concentrated it must then be diluted with water before adding it to the Fehling's solution.

(iii.) *Blood*.—To some of the urine in a test-tube add *one drop* of tincture of guaiacum, and then a few drops of ozonic ether and shake. On standing, the lower layer of the ether becomes blue if blood be present.

The above tests are those which the nurse will be more commonly called upon to perform, and it is to be noted that it is as much here, as in the more strictly nursing part of her work, that the priceless value of the faculty of observation, which cannot be too strenuously cultivated, is seen.

Medical Matters.

NERVE TRANSPLANTATION.

THE *American Journal of Medical Sciences* lately had an article by Dr. R. Peterson, describing the transplantation of about two inches of nerve from a young bloodhound into the right wrist of a man, which had been injured by a circular saw, so that the hand lost its sensibility. The dog's nerve was sutured between the ends of the median nerve with kangaroo tendon. A similar operation was performed on the ulnar nerve. Next day a distinct return of sensibility was observed in the thumb, and three months after the operation sensibility was almost complete. There are now some twenty cases of transplanted nerve on record, all more or less successful. In most cases the nerve of dogs was employed, but in some cases the nerve of rabbits, of a kitten, and also of recently amputated limbs. Catgut, silk, and kangaroo tendon were used to join the nerves. As a rule sensibility returned in about ten days, and motion in two and a half months.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Dr. Henry D. Chapin, of New York, recently published in the *Medical Record* a paper upon "The Effect of Summer Heat upon

the Public Health." He begins by showing from the health records of New York City, that with the return of each July the number of deaths from intestinal diseases suddenly trebles, producing amongst children a mortality that is simply appalling. During the last five years the number of children under five years of age who have died of diarrhoea alone in the city of New York has aggregated 1,197 during June, and 4,320 during July. The enormous excess during July, says Dr. Chapin, is in a large measure preventable, and in a considerable measure preventable through public action. The public cannot require mothers to cut off their children from milk diet when fermentation has once begun in the intestines, but the public can lessen the use of milk that will ferment. The law, he says, now requires a minimum proportion of cream, and it should establish a standard of freshness as well. The keeping of milk cool by means of ice should be required from those who handle milk for sale, as well as urged upon all consumers. In this connection Dr. Chapin points out the public necessity of a plentiful supply of cheap ice. In 1896, he recalls, the Board of Health found it necessary to secure from the city authorities the free distribution of ice in order to check the alarming death-rate among little children. Other food supplies also can be watched by public authorities so as to prevent disease, and the cleaning of the streets—flushing them if necessary to prevent the presence of decaying matter—can do much to better health conditions. A supply of pure ice at popular prices in this country is greatly to be desired. At present it is regarded as a luxury rather than a factor, as undoubtedly it is, in the preservation of public health.

THE BRAIN OF HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ

The brain of Prof. von Helmholtz, who died in 1894, has been the subject of investigation by Prof. Hausemann and three other physicians. The results are of much interest, in view of the great mental superiority of the learned Professor, who rose to the very highest rank of scientific investigators.

The head was decidedly brachycephalic. The weight of the brain was not much in excess of the average. It was not abnormally or excessively convoluted, and indeed, there was nothing discoverable which, in the present state of our knowledge, would have led the most expert observer to suppose that the brain had once served as the physical basis of the mind of a great man.

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