

Temple of Music, which has now been closed indefinitely. But the recent tragedy must intensify the earnestness of the deliberations of the Congress, which meets to consider how best nurses may organise and qualify themselves to render service to the sick and suffering. There is, something peculiarly appropriate in the session of the Nurses' Congress at this time.

THE ARMY MEDICAL REORGANIZATION SCHEME.

The Scheme for the reorganization of the Army Medical Service has been passed by the Treasury, and now only awaits the Royal sign-manual to be promulgated.

The scheme is still in the confidential stage, but there is reason to believe that in promotion the principle of selection by merit will be considerably extended, and that professional zeal and ability will thus receive recognition. It is also stated that the status of the Director-General will be more in accordance with the dignity and responsibilities of his office than has hitherto been the case, and that an increase of pay will be attached to the position.

As a scheme involving the reorganization of the Army Medical Service must affect the Army Nursing Service, which is so closely connected with it, we await with interest the publication of this report. Is it too much to hope that the value of the work of trained nurses for our sick and wounded soldiers will receive a recognition more in accordance with its dignity and responsibilities than that hitherto somewhat grudgingly and unwillingly accorded to it?

A NEW VENTILATOR.

Mr. Charles Pullman has invented a contrivance for the better ventilation of the cars which bear his name, for which he claims such merits as no ventilator yet invented can show. It will, he says, give fresh air to a moving car, to the inside rooms of a steamer, or to an underground railway tube. Wherever fresh air is to be had this contrivance will gather it in and diffuse it to an interior, no matter how far removed from the outer air, or how many angles have to be overcome. Mr. Pullman conceived the idea from watching the results of throwing out some scraps of torn paper from the rear end platform of a moving train. These, instead of being blown away, were whirled underneath the car and carried for some distance along the track. The new ventilator, of which the chief merit is its simplicity, is the elaboration of the idea thus received.

The Nursing of Children's Diseases.

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LECTURE X.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

The symptoms of Convulsions.—These vary greatly according to their severity, and the number of muscles involved. They may be simply jerks or twitching of the head and neck or a limb, or rolling of the eyeballs upwards with twitching of the mouth and eyelids. Sometimes the hands may be firmly clenched over the thumbs, and the toes flexed, which is often called "carpopedal contractions." A typical convulsion resembles an epileptic fit, beginning often with rolling upwards of the eyes and twitching of the face, or a catch of the breath produced by a spasm of the larynx, then the face becomes pale, the limbs stiff and extended, the hands clenched, the back arched, the jaw tightly closed, and the breathing suspended; soon the face and lips become blueish, and twitching of the hands, feet, and face come on; this lasts for some seconds and slowly subsides, leaving the child dazed for five or ten minutes. If the child have teeth the tongue may be bitten. Sometimes the fits are chiefly on one side of the body only. The first fit may be the only one, or they may recur, and sometimes with great frequency; in a case recently under my care, a child of four months old had 147 fits in three days.

The child may die during a fit from spasm of the larynx, but with great care it is astonishing how many fits a child may have and completely recover. In the case mentioned above the fits completely ceased and the child is now healthy and thriving; but when the fits are a symptom of brain disease such as meningitis or occur in the course of pneumonia they are a very bad sign and death is frequent.

The treatment of convulsions must be chiefly the removal of the cause. If the child have a temperature of 103 degrees or so it should be put into a hot bath and cold water poured over it and into the bath to reduce the temperature, which may be the cause of the convulsion. If the cause be indigestion, a hot bath may be used, and flannels wrung out of hot water may be placed on the abdomen, or a mustard bath may be useful.

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