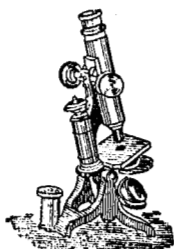


**Medical Matters.****THE NURSING OF SMALL-POX.**

Small-pox patients should be nursed in a well-ventilated room, of a temperature from 55° to 60° F. Warm baths may as a rule be given throughout the illness. In the early stages they relieve slight delirium and sleeplessness. In the pustular stage they allay irritation, and assist in the separation of the scabs, and they greatly relieve the patient in severe discrete and confluent cases. Dr. Goodall states that it is important to keep some local application constantly on the skin, especially the face. Lint soaked in boracic lotion, or glycerine and borax, linseed meal poultices thinly spread on lint, and smeared with vaseline and iodoform, are useful applications. Itching may be relieved by sponging with acidulated water, 1 part of acetic acid to 3 of water. The mouth and nose should be frequently washed out with boracic acid lotion or liquor sodæ chlorinatæ. Dr. MacCombie recommends as a good mouth wash, liquor potassæ 1 part, pure carbolic acid, 1 part, water 80 parts. The eyes should be kept clean, and vaseline applied to the edges of the lids to prevent them sticking together. Cases in which there is much eruption require most careful nursing to prevent bedsores. If there is much difficulty in swallowing during the eruptive stage, the administration of nutrient enemata may be necessary. It will thus be seen that much of the comfort and well-being of the patient depends upon efficient nursing.

**URIC ACID POISONING.**

Dr. Haig, who has made extensive researches as to the connection between gout and uric acid, thus summarizes his latest views in the *Medical Annual* for 1902:—

(1) That gout is due to poisoning by flesh and tea and similar substances, which introduce uric acid into the blood in very considerable quantities.

(2) That the uric acid so introduced may not only remain in the body, but may prevent the excretion of the uric acid formed in the body.

(3) That as a result the body becomes more or less saturated with uric acid, which may

irritate its fibrous tissues (gout or rheumatism) or may obstruct its capillaries, causing high blood pressure and defective capillary circulation and their results, such as the great groups of circulation diseases, the uric acid headache, epilepsy and mental disease, anæmia, Bright's Disease, Raynaud's Disease, etc., all of them being mere results of the enormous influence which uric acid asserts on the circulation of the body by obstructing its capillaries.

(4) That all these diseases, called by so many names, fall into two groups; (a) the local group, and (b) the circulation group, of which the latter is by far the more extensive and important, so that what we used to call gout and rheumatism become almost insignificant by comparison. In the future they should be called uric-acid poisoning, and recognized as due to unnatural food.

**THE INCREASE OF CANCER IN GERMANY.**

According to Dr. Wutzdorf, of the Imperial Board of Health, the spread of cancer is generally on the increase in Germany, especially in Wurtemberg, in the Hamburg territory, in the province of Posen, and in the Bavarian provinces on the left bank of the Rhine, and to a lesser degree in Hanover, Saxony, Westphalia, Hesse, and Eastern Prussia.

A decrease has been observed in Hohenzollern and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha only.

Without taking into account the juvenile portion of the population, which, because of its comparative freedom from cancer cannot be included in the statistics, the number of deaths from cancer in all other classes has been steadily on the increase, it being much in excess of the growth of the population generally.

At present the younger classes of the population are suffering from cancer to a much higher degree than formerly, while women are more frequently attacked by the disease than men. Yet the scourge is much more on the increase as regards men than in the case of women.

The official statistics of the Cancer Research Committee, to be published in a few weeks in the *Klinischer Jahrbuch*, include the years from 1892 to 1898. They are certain to create the liveliest interest in the international medical world.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)