

Nursing a Case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

When working as a Queen's Nurse, I was sent by churchworkers to a boy with typhoid fever—we used, by the way, to always get plain diagnosis on post-cards from clergy and churchworkers—so I went prepared to find pneumonia, which was so often the real case.

I found the patient, a boy of twelve, in a small, clean cottage (in Hoxton), lying on a couch-bed in the parlour; he was unconscious, lying in a heap, his thighs drawn up, head retracted, mouth open and dry, eyes looking closed by force, face very pale, very thin, arms and body covered fairly thickly with round purple spots, unlike anything I had ever seen; he had involuntary evacuations, was lying in a wet bed, and had a bed sore; he had been ill a week, and had not spoken for days. Temperature was 101 deg.

Being careful not to mention typhoid, I asked the mother what the doctor had said. She thought he said it was typhoid at first, but later on, said it was something else.

I suggested typhus, but she said, "No; the doctor gave it no name." I visited twice daily, and leaving the chart and notes, hoped to see the diagnosis filled in; but it was not. Each visit I asked if the doctor had said what it was, but the mother said the doctor only laughed, and asked each day what the nurse had said it was. The mother always said the nurse did not know, but would like to very much.

At last, one day, he said he supposed the nurse would really like to know, so he wrote upon the chart "Cerebro-spinal fever," saying "she will be happy now."

I was told he had never before taken any notice of the district nurses, so I felt I had scored one at least. For days the patient's condition seemed hopeless, the temperature never very high, but the almost comatose condition was dreadful. After some days the spots faded away, and the boy began to recover a little, so that he was no longer so helpless; but for three weeks he never spoke a word; the bed-sore was long healing, and the strength slow in returning, but at last he became convalescent; but he remained childish, almost imbecile, talking like a very young child with a high falsetto voice.

There was something uncanny in the child then; he had to be taught to use proper words, and how to use his knife and fork. He knew me, and would come to me (when he got up) looking pleased, but talking in that shrill drawl.

He eventually made a perfect recovery, and then went away to Wales for change, and I saw him no more.

As cerebro-spinal fever is just now so much before the public, these notes of a fairly rare case may be of interest.

E. P.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The efficient nursing of the sick has ever been an object of solicitude to Queen Alexandra, who, as is well known, takes an active interest in the naval and military nursing services, as well as in the work of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. The Queen of Saxony is also showing a practical interest in the welfare of the sick, and last week paid a visit to St. Thomas's Hospital, where she was received by the Secretary, Mr. G. F. Roberts, and the staff, who conducted her over the various wards. The inspection terminated with an examination of the new casualty department, which has just been added to the institution.

At the third conversazione for nurses held at the Church Missionary House, when Lady Fox, Mrs. Ingham, and Mrs. P. Baker Wilbraham in turn acted as hostesses, Dr. A. Neve, of Kashmir, showed lantern slides of scenes connected with Medical Missions on the north-west frontier of India, accentuating the need in connection with many of these missions for trained nurses.

Dr. Grace Adams, formerly a C.E.Z.M.S. missionary in the Punjab, also gave an interesting lecture, in which she dwelt on the urgent need at the present time for trained nurses, mentioning that in some of the Mission Hospitals not even one was included in the staff, and pointing out the undue strain that such a condition of things must throw upon the doctors.

Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of County Nursing Associations in connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, last week delivered an address in connection with the Devonshire Nursing Association to a drawing-room meeting held at Rocklands, Chudleigh, by the invitation of Sir William and Lady Acland. The meeting was intended to be supplemental to that held a few weeks ago at Lyndridge, and those who had not had an opportunity of hearing Miss Hughes speak on that occasion were specially invited.

One effect of the multiplication of County Nursing Associations is to be found in the serious results, from the financial standpoint, which seem likely to ensue to local cottage hospitals. At a recent meeting of the committee and subscribers of the Chulmleigh Cottage Hospital, Mrs. Preston Whyte, who

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