

Annotations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEANLINESS.

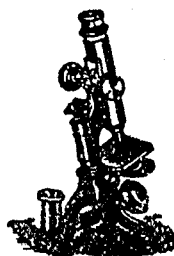
Dr. Charles Creighton, who recently read an important paper on plague in India before the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, has recently paid a visit to India for the purpose of inquiring into the prevalence of the disease. He has formed the conclusion that the origin of plague always, and everywhere, is attributable to crowded sites too long inhabited without drainage. It is, in fact, a filth disease.

THE CENTRALISATION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION.

For some time there has been a feeling on the part of those interested in medical education that such education could be arranged both more efficiently and more economically by the centralisation of the teaching of subjects unconnected with clinical work. Recently a definite step has been taken in this direction by the action of the Westminster Hospital Medical School, which has transferred the teaching of its students in the subjects of the preliminary and intermediate examinations to King's College. The new scheme will come into effect in October next. Other medical schools are also negotiating with King's and University Colleges, and it seems likely that ultimately the purely scientific part of a student's training will be carried on apart from the medical school with which he is connected. This concentration of teaching must have the effect not only of economising the cost of medical education, but also of securing the best teaching power, and of evolving the best methods of education available. We have always contended that the same system might be applied with advantage to nursing education. There are many subjects, such as domestic economy, the laws which underlie all good nursing, the best methods of bed-making, bandaging, sick room cookery, &c., all of which could be taught best and most systematically before a woman enters a nurse-training school at all. Not only so, but the hospitals would directly benefit by obtaining for service in the wards a class of women who know the first principles of their work. Further, if it be true, as has been asserted, that the hospitals cannot turn out nurses quickly enough to meet the demand for their services, the above plan would have the advantage of setting free more accommodation, and thus of enabling the hospitals to receive a greater number of pupils, actively engaged in the nursing of the sick.

Medical Matters.

A NEW ANÆSTHETIC.



Dr. Harvey Hilliard, Assistant Instructor in Anæsthetics at the London Hospital, and Anæsthetist to the Royal Dental Hospital, relates in the *Medical Times* some interesting results in connection with the use of the light-blue rays as an anæsthetic, the rays having

been used in the dental department at the London Hospital with great success.

Six cases were treated, and in all the patients stated that they felt no pain, although from two to five extractions were performed in four of the cases.

In one case, in which only one tooth was extracted, the patient was so pleased with the anæsthetic that he asked to have two more molars removed, and this was done quite painlessly. Most of the patients stated that they were conscious that something was being done, but that they felt no pain.

In one instance a Polish Jewess of highly excitable temperament, who had been anæsthetised with nitrous oxide gas a few days previously, objected to the application of the blue rays. She was reassured, however, and reluctantly submitted, when five extractions were performed without any sign of discomfort.

THE RARER FORMS OF RHEUMATISM.

Dr. J. Schreiber in *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* makes some interesting comments on the above subject. The author believes that a sharp line must be drawn between muscular and joint rheumatism. To secure uniformity and to avoid confusion, the term muscular rheumatism ought to be dropped, and the word rheumatism applied to that inflammatory condition of the various locomotive organs and their appendages which result from sudden changes of temperature. Persons inclined to rheumatism need not therefore fear intense, uniform cold, but rather overheating, especially that brought about by muscular exertion, followed by sudden rest and cooling. The quickest and most reliable remedy in cases of fresh or acute rheumatism is exercise. The patient may safely indulge in all those movements which cause pain, but care should be taken to exclude joint rheumatism. Chronic rheumatism can only be cured by mechano-therapy, in which active and passive movements play an important part. Among

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