

Medical Matters.

THE STATE AND SYPHILIS.



Dr. Seymour Stritch, in a paper on the above subject, read before the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, and reported in the *British Medical Journal*, endeavoured to show that the time had come for an active crusade to be formulated by the Government and people against syphilis. He adduced figures to prove the cost to the nation of venereal diseases in the army, navy, and Government departments amounted annually to £3,000,000; making allowances for superannuations and for sick leave occasioned indirectly through these diseases, though not appearing in the returns as such, a more accurate estimate of this loss would, he thought, be £7,000,000. The loss to the nation from death and disablement should be considered, from the point of view not only of syphilis, but also of all those scrofulous and tuberculous diseases which might be traceable to it (cancer of the tongue, throat, leucoplasia, &c.). The hygiene of syphilis might be dealt with from the basis of a trihedron supporting the principle of morality, sociality and legislation. The first of these was more within the province of the Church than that of medicine, and he therefore resigned it into its hands. Socially, the disease might be combated by improving the environment of young men in business and in the services. Domestically, an endeavour to make the home attractions more pleasant than the seductions of the city should be the anxious endeavour of parents. By fathers retaining the confidence of their sons they could observe the bent of their minds, and by tactful insinuations create by suggestions the necessary antidote. The *morale* of the nursery should not be neglected owing to morbid curiosity of young nurses. Circumcision was worthy of being adopted universally. Boys should be encouraged to acknowledge any slip to their fathers. Lectures should be given in schools and ambulance classes on the dangers of venereal disease. Given free dispensaries for men in each quarter of a city, the notification of the disease and punishment of those to whom its spread was traced, together with the compulsory detention and segregation of prostitutes whilst in an infectious condition, and the inclusion by the General Medical Council of dermatology and syphilis among subjects requiring evidence of special study during the curriculum of students, syphilis would become of sporadic importance.

Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology as Applied to Practical Nursing.*

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LECTURE IV.

(Continued from page 384.)

It will simplify our comprehension of the effects produced on the human body by diseases of the nervous system, if we first consider briefly some of those consequences with which nurses most commonly meet; for example, Neuralgia, Convulsions, Sciatica, Rigors, Anæsthesia, Hyperæsthesia, Paralysis, Tremors, Epilepsy, Catalepsy, Chorea, Hydrophobia, Tetanus, and last, but by no means least, the multitude of symptoms which are usually grouped together under the name of Hysteria.

NEURALGIA literally means "nerve pain." The term is, as a rule, applied to nerve affections of the head or of other external parts. Neuralgia is usually described as severe paroxysms of pain shooting along the affected nerve; for example, along the facial nerve up to the forehead, into the ear, or into one or both eyeballs. The pain is invariably due to irritation or disease of a branch of the same nerve; for instance, in the above case it might be the nerve of a decayed tooth. The treatment of neuralgia, therefore, usually consists of the simple removal of the cause, say the extraction of the decayed tooth, or the removal by surgical or medicinal means of the injury or disease in or around the nerve, which has caused the acute pain. But there are some cases in which the nurse is able to carry out treatment for the patient's relief by the application of fomentations, or leeches, or liniments. A measure which sometimes gives rapid benefit is the application of a mild caustic to the exposed part of the affected nerve, say, in the cavity of a decayed tooth, or even to a superficial branch of the nerve at some distance from the site of the disease. For example, some cases of extreme facial neuralgia are instantaneously relieved by the application of a small piece of cotton wool dipped into pure carbolic acid, and applied just inside the ear. It is well to remember that many cases of neuralgia are also due to a constitutional condition, and that, frequently, medicines such as those used for Gout, Rheumatism, or Syphilis cure neuralgia of an old-standing character,

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