

Improvement progresses a number of foot-marks may be chalked on the floor at short intervals, and the patient directed to walk slowly along these, placing his feet in the marks. A solitaire board and pieces are a very useful means of exercising the upper limbs. The board should be at arm's length, and the pieces picked up with the forefinger and thumb, and then lowered slowly and placed in a hole. General massage is usually ordered, as it is important to keep up the general nutrition. A well appointed diet should be given, and regular habits insisted on. Constipation is the rule, necessitating laxatives, when, often, the result of this is incontinence. Retention of urine is present, sometimes accompanied by incontinence. The use of the catheter is frequently necessary, and this operation must be conducted with due regard to aseptic precautions. The introduction of a catheter that is not surgically clean usually causes cystitis. Most doctors consider that the bladder should always be irrigated after a catheter has been passed, whether cystitis is present or not. If there is not actual retention, great benefit will be derived from regularity in micturition. The patient should be encouraged to pass water at definite times, say every four hours. In cases of gastric crises, the pain may be relieved by fomentation—opium being sometimes ordered—or a vigorous massage of the back sometimes brings a respite. These crises are often so severe as to necessitate rectal feeding, as even peptonised food cannot be retained.

When the case becomes bed-ridden, the greatest care will have to be exercised to prevent bedsores. There is often complete loss of sensation in the region of the sacrum, and the patient cannot feel if the sheets are crumpled under him.

The writer remembers finding the prickly top of a pineapple, placed there by a mischievous boy in the ward, under the draw-sheet of a tabetic. He had lain there for some time without any discomfort to the great chagrin of the joker. A water or air bed, or at least a ring for the sacrum must be provided, and constant attention directed to the prominent bones of the shoulders, hips, sacrum, and heels.

W. L. DIXON CHILD.

Our Holiday Prize.

A prize of three guineas towards a summer holiday will be awarded to the winner of the Puzzle Competition for July, whose name will be announced in our issue of August 1st. Twelve coupons must be enclosed, three for

each week, dated from 4th to 25th July. The rules are the same as for the ordinary competition.

The Colonial Nursing Association.

Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg will be present at the annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association to be held at Viscount Ridley's house, 10, Carlton House Terrace, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at half-past three o'clock. Lord Ampthill will preside, and the speakers will include the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Viscount Ridley, and Sir Alfred Jones.

Progress of State Registration.

Miss L. L. Dock, writing from the United States, on the rejection of the Directory Bill by the Lords, exclaims:—

“Glorious! glorious news! Congratulations galore. My faith in Anglo-Saxon fair play is revived. Now that this last lion (or I should call it rather wolf or wild cat) is slain in your path, I hope you will soon reach your victorious goal.”

The Poor-Law Infirmary Matrons Association.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Poor-Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held, by the kind invitation of Miss Cockrell, at the St. Marylebone Infirmary on the afternoon of Saturday, May 30th.

There was a very large attendance of members, several of whom had come from a long distance, the agenda being of exceptional interest.

Miss Marquardt, of Camberwell, opened a discussion on the curriculum and training of probationers in poor-law infirmaries, introducing the subject by remarking that a great change seemed likely to be coming in poor-law, and it would be well if the Matrons would discuss together the best method of training probationers in case an authorised scheme be put forward for England, one being already in force in Scotland.

Very many members joined in the debate, which proved so interesting that it was found impossible to consider the question in all its bearings in one afternoon.

It was unanimously agreed to hold a special meeting to continue the subject on Saturday, June 20th, at the Camberwell Infirmary, at 3 p.m.

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