

EMETINE INJECTIONS IN AMŒBIC DYSENTERY.

Dr. F. J. Harfour and Dr. W. B. Haddad, of the Church Missionary Society, Achmoun, Menoufeyah, Egypt, record in the *Lancet* the favourable results of the treatment of amœbic dysentery in cases treated by them by hypodermic injections of emetine hydrochloride in an out-patient practice. They write:—

"In the space of eleven months twenty-seven cases were treated and in all cases the symptoms quickly disappeared, and the patients were so struck with the result that they came back for more injections even after they were apparently cured. We commenced with injections of gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ which was given on dispensary days—i.e., three times a week—but soon the dose was raised to gr. $\frac{1}{2}$, gr. $\frac{3}{4}$, and lastly to gr. 1. The majority of cases received gr. 1 at each injection with most satisfactory results. Gr. 1 gave the best and quickest result, and no untoward result was ever complained of or observed. It is interesting to note that once, when the stock of hypodermic tabloids had run short, a half-grain tabloid of emetine was given internally, and when the patient was next seen he reported that on his way home he had severe vomiting and diarrhœa. As all were treated as out-patients, they could not be restricted to a liquid diet. All the cases except one were chronic, lasting from one month to four years. The number of motions averaged about ten in the twenty-four hours; two had sixteen and one thirty motions. All patients showed remarkable improvement after the first or second injection; the hæmorrhage greatly decreased or stopped altogether, straining was much less or quite gone, the number of motions considerably diminished, and the stools became fœcal. The pallor disappeared, and the pained expression of the face entirely altered after a few injections. As a rule no other drug was given, and the majority of cases had no symptoms of the disease after four or five injections. In the case which had lasted four years all symptoms disappeared after the third injection of 1 gr. emetine hydrochloride. Two cases had recurrence of their symptoms and came back for treatment about three weeks after the cessation of the emetine injections. One of these cases had a third relapse after six months, when he attended the dispensary for a week, had three 1 gr. injections, and was apparently cured."

Those who have ever suffered from this painful and intractable disease will realize what a boon this treatment must be to those whose lives have for years been a burden to them.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK DURING THE WAR.

DISCUSSION.

The discussion on Miss Mollett's Paper on "Women and Their Work During the War," elicited a good many opinions, which we regret cannot for lack of space be reported at length.

The Chairman (Mrs. Fenwick) in opening the discussion, said that in regard to the scope and extent to which women can replace men temporarily in time of war, were several branches of work in which men in time of peace monopolised women's work, selling stockings and ribbons and other such items of women's wear over the counter, acting as shop walkers in authority over women, &c. She thought it was a pity more women were not attracted to work on the land in the open air, especially in the care of animals; it was in many instances not more arduous than the professional games to which many girls devoted their lives. The leisured women who were eager for work since the beginning of the war, showed no craving after such work as required technical skill, or brain work, such as banking or accounts. The majority had rushed into nursing, which apparently they did not realise was work which required definite training and skill, and were encouraged to do so by doctors and others, who ought to realise its value, but apparently did not do so. Indeed, in this connection it was extraordinary how few people, and women especially, realised that science, art, and skill were required in nursing the sick and wounded; indeed, they were profoundly ignorant of its true significance.

Miss Mollett had spoken of her experience in a Red Cross Hospital, after eighteen years' practical experience in office as a Matron. She had not experience in hospitals dominated by an untrained Commandant, who according to the regulations had autocratic powers, even to the extent of discharging the medical officer and nurses. If the Red Cross Society provided that only highly trained women should be in charge of all auxiliary military and voluntary hospitals, with the usual proportion of trained nurses and probationers under them, the system would be more satisfactory. The present system sanctioned by our War Office was wrong. It placed a hospital in charge of a Commandant, or Matron, who was as ignorant of hospital management as she was of nursing. Numbers of untrained women had since the war not

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