

Then some people made comparisons and said that the mother was being paid more than the father earned when he was alive. His reply to that was that because the employer paid an insufficient wage was no reason why the State should do the same thing.

Judge Neil is now going round the world and stimulating other countries to adopt the system which he has so successfully inaugurated in his own. We wish him all success in a campaign so humane, and withal so excellent from the business standpoint; for these Mothers' Pensions are maintenance grants, made in respect of children under fourteen, to a widowed or deserted mother who is a "proper guardian" but too poor to feed, clothe, and "home" her children adequately. Supervisors are appointed by each State to see that the children are properly cared for, and the system has resulted in a great saving of public money.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

HOW WOULD YOU NURSE A CASE OF PERFORATION OF THE BLADDER BEFORE AND AFTER OPERATION?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Staff Nurse Grierson, Horton War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey.

PRIZE PAPER.

Before operation (the time is usually very short) the patient should be kept quietly in bed, with as cheerful surroundings as possible. Give plenty of fluids to drink, and abstain from giving anything in the way of meat diet; keep very warm with hot-water bottles, and take the temperature and pulse every four hours, watching carefully for any visible signs of collapse. If possible obtain a water or air bed, and failing either of these an air ring, and nurse between blankets. The bed must be well protected with mackintoshes, and the draw-sheet will probably require frequently changing, so great care must be taken of the patient's back, as in this condition bedsores may easily appear; it is wise to rub the back frequently with olive oil or zinc ointment, or a mixture consisting of equal parts of these two preparations.

The bowels should be kept well open, and a soap-and-water enema should be given previous to operation if the medical practitioner in charge of the case is of opinion that the patient is in a condition to undergo such treatment.

Should any urine be passed naturally, it must be carefully measured, and tested for albumen, blood, or pus.

It is necessary to watch for symptoms of peritonitis and extravasation, with spreading cellulitis; in case of the latter, hot fomentations applied frequently will give ease.

If there is a rapidly spreading oedema, a hot pack or vapour bath may be ordered, the patient in such a case being in a seriously ill condition.

It may be necessary to catheterize the patient to ascertain if there is any urine collected in the bladder, and one must carefully watch for rigors, taking every precaution to avoid such a thing occurring.

Previous to operation the area must be rendered surgically clean, shaved, and compressed, if time allows; if not, it is necessary to make all the needful preparations on the operating table.

After operation it is wise to nurse in the Fowler position, and the patient must still continue having at least three pints of fluids in the twenty-four hours; Bengers' Food, Allenburys' Diet, and an egg-flip will be found an ideal form of nourishment during the first week, when the diet can then be gradually increased if everything goes on satisfactorily.

A bladder wash-out may be given once or twice during the twenty-four hours, and great care must still be taken as regards keeping the patient warm and comfortable, the dressing being done frequently to prevent the presence of any sores around the area of the wounds.

After a fortnight the catheter may be used, and then the patient must gradually be encouraged to pass urine in the natural way, the quantity still being measured and tested from time to time. During convalescence plenty of light, nourishing food should be given, and the patient should have plenty of fresh air.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss B. James, Miss M. Horton, Miss F. Cameron.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Give a brief description of the spinal cord. What are its functions?

Mix together 1 tablespoonful of cream, 1 of black pepper, and 1 of brown sugar. This mixture is poisonous to flies. Put in a saucer, darken the room except one window, and in that set the saucer. To clear the house of flies, burn pyrethrum powder. This stupefies the flies, but they must be swept up and burned.

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