

in adequate quantities, if necessary with a cup or spoon, and owing to difficulty in swallowing so often present plenty of time should be allowed.

The bowels might be incontinent and the bedpan should be given at definite hours. Bedsores must be guarded against and the position of the patient often changed. In the case of excessive restlessness knees and elbows and pressure points should be padded; cold sponging, and ice bag to the head were often very efficacious. In very acute cases a restraining sheet might be necessary.

(3) The lecturer then detailed the drugs usefully prescribed under various conditions, and treatments which had been tried at various times but which had not proved of value. Probably hyoscine, in doses of 1/200 to 1/50 grain three times a day was the best remedy in chronic cases. It had a more prolonged and efficacious action if given hypodermically, and this duty was often deputed to the nurse. A new substance said to have a profound effect was Banisterine.

In behaviour disorders punishment was not a deterrent. What was required was tactful handling and 'good mothering.'

In conclusion, the lecturer said that encephalitis lethargica was almost incurable; the cure, or otherwise, depended on the amount of damage done to the nervous system.

#### BEHAVIOUR DISORDERS.

Recently a lad of 15 who was charged at Bilston, Staffordshire, with stabbing a man with a knife, was stated to have been in hospital three years ago as a suspected case of *encephalitis lethargica*. A schoolmaster stated in court that since then the lad had been subject to terrible attacks of "sleepy sickness" and at these times he was morbid and had attacks of savagery. The boy was placed under the supervision of a probationer officer for six months.

The Editor is deeply interested in these cases of behaviour disorders, which come into court, of persons who have suffered from sleepy sickness, and will be grateful if any readers of the Journal who come across such cases will acquaint her with the facts, or, if they see a case reported in the Press, if they will send her the cutting referring to it, with the name and date of the paper from which it is extracted.

#### RÉSUMÉ OF LECTURES ON VENEREAL DISEASE GIVEN AT THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES BY DR. MARGARET RORKE.

##### Gonorrhœa.

NOVEMBER 29th.

The speaker, in the course of an interesting lecture, dealt rapidly with the usual signs and symptoms of Gonorrhœa in women, and with the commoner extensions and complications of the disease. She pointed out the danger of pregnancy and the puerperal state to a woman so infected.

Treatment was given in some detail, both for women and also for little girls suffering from gonococcal vulvo-vaginitis. It was pointed out the risk of a nurse herself being infected from work with such a patient was negligible, provided reasonable care were taken of her own hands, and of all utensils and dressings which had been in contact with the patient. A plea was made for a more general interest by nurses in this type of case, the sufferer often being an innocently infected wife or child.

##### Syphilis.

DECEMBER 6th.

The lecturer, in introducing her subject, stated that Syphilis was one of the greatest racial poisons. The four

stages of the disease were dealt with in detail, and stress was laid on the necessity for rigorous and prolonged treatment, and for complete discharge being granted by a competent medical authority before the patient could with reasonable safety consider himself cured.

Congenital Syphilis was said to be due to one or both parents having failed to arrive at this satisfactory standard of cure, before having children. The less well recognised condition of "Conceptional Syphilis" was explained, and the real necessity for any woman who had once had a syphilitic still-birth or live-born child, to have injections during every successive pregnancy was emphasised. The value of such preventive measures in ensuring live-born and healthy offspring was demonstrated. Dr. Rorke asked for the co-operation of Health Visitors and Midwives in educating the women as to the necessity for such treatment, and assured her audience of the excellent results of such treatment, begun as early as possible in pregnancy.

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### Women Patients in Mental Hospitals.

In the House of Commons on December 6th, Sir Robert Newman, Bart. (Exeter), asked the Minister of Health how many women patients of unsound mind were detained in borough or county mental hospitals in England and Wales where there was no woman member on the visiting committee; how many of these were detained in hospitals under the control of councils who had no women members and were prevented by law from co-opting women on these committees; and whether he intended to propose legislation making it compulsory that a certain number of women should be appointed to serve on all county and borough mental hospitals, visiting committees where women were detained. Mr. Chamberlain replied: Information in regard to the first part of the question is not available. The point raised by my hon. friend in the latter part of the question has been noted for consideration when legislation dealing with the subject is proposed.

### "THE MAJESTY OF ENGLAND."

*Leprosy Notes*, a new magazine, issued quarterly by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, the object of which is "to rid the Empire of Leprosy," quotes the following appreciation on the part of the lepers segregated in the island of Funzi, from the *Zanzibar Gazette* which says:—

"Very few people have heard of Funzi. It is a small island near Zanzibar and its sole population consists of 25 lepers. Recently the small European community in Zanzibar organised a charity concert and they devoted part of the proceeds to the afflicted of Funzi. They were well rewarded. Two of the lepers were appointed by their fellows to give suitable thanks and their letters will long be preserved in Zanzibar. One wrote: 'We pray that you may long be filled with confidence and love continually to be mindful of us who are infirm, and that the dominion of the English may daily continue in might no less than the lords of the Government. For in olden times there was none to regard persons like ourselves, but now the majesty of England takes note of us and loves us . . . God protect the English rule.'"

We regret that, owing to a printer's error, in our December issue the Victory Tower, in our illustration of the Dominion Buildings at Ottawa, should have been described as the Victoria Tower. The article itself indicates quite clearly its name and purpose.

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