

## Take Care of that Bite.

By L. Goddard, S.R.N.

NOW THAT SPRING is here and the fine days stretch before us once more, we shall find ourselves again exposed to the risk of being bitten by all sorts of unpleasant little insects, and in many cases we are apt to treat these bites much too lightly and suffer accordingly.

A bite from a mosquito can very easily set up blood-poisoning, with the result that the victim may even be in danger of losing his life.

In any case, these bites are all unpleasant, and irritating, and therefore it is as well to know something of how to prevent and cure them.

Water is essential for all development and multiplication of mosquitos, so protect all collections of water from them.

For the treatment of the sting, mop the part freely with spirit, tincture of iodine or dilute ammonia.

A paste of baking soda and sal volatile is an efficient application, and to many other stings such as plants.

For the bee and wasp sting, treatment is a little different; there is pain, swelling, and may even be symptoms of shock. Squeeze the part firmly, so as to try and eject the sting and make the poison flow out with the blood.

If the sting can be felt or seen, endeavour to pull it out, the swelling will go down much quicker.

Warmth and brandy can be given for shock.

Should the bite from a centipede cause discomfort, squeeze the bottom area of the bite and hold it under a tap of running water, afterwards applying one of the local applications suggested for other bites.

Severe illness and death following bites from gnats are not due to any poison from the insect, but to infection getting into the small wound, so that a kind of boil develops, which may be followed by blood-poisoning.

Occasionally, one hears of a snake-bite being poisonous; should this occur, enlarge the puncture with a pin or knife, squeeze the part with finger and thumb, apply a tourniquet above the wound. Do not forget to send for a doctor. Should crystals of potassium permanganate be obtainable, rub one or two well into the wound.

Sometimes, especially in children, the tongue or throat is stung. Place the child before a fire, apply a sponge, a piece of flannel or cloth wrung out in very hot water to the front of the neck, from the chin to the top of the breastbone. Cold water to drink, and olive oil—a desert-spoonful at a time.

A sting from a spider can be treated with iodine after the poison has been squeezed out; if swelling persists, apply a hot fomentation and send for the doctor.

## W V F Plan Aid to Brain Injured.

PLANS FOR helping the brain injured were discussed at a meeting of the panel of rehabilitation consultants of the World Veterans Federation at the sixth assembly of this international ex-service organisation held at Brussels from May 28th to June 1st.

The consultants, drawn from eight countries, advise the Federation on its schemes for aiding the war-disabled of its 31 member countries.

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

A MEETING OF THE Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on April 25th, 1956, at 19 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

Miss A. R. Bunch was in the Chair. Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

It was reported that the following notice was sent to all Fellows and Members of the College:—

"For some considerable time the increasing cost of printing and publishing THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the Official Organ of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., has caused the Council much concern.

"Under these circumstances it is therefore with very deep regret that I have to inform you that the Council has most reluctantly decided that April, 1956, will be the last publication of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to be issued.

"With what, I feel sure, is our mutual regret in the passing of our voice in the press."

Among the many replies expressing real distress on receiving the lamentable, but inevitable, notice of the closure this month of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, against our protest were:—

MRS. EMMIE WATES—

"Your letter gave me a dreadful shock, even though I have realised what an impossible task you have all so gallantly and loyally tackled for years. I have admired and wondered how you carried on so long, for all things pass and we must look forward. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has always been so kind to me that I keep first a few among my treasures! And what shall I do with the last April number when it comes? I send you my love and congratulations for doing such wonders."

MISS G. VERGETTE—

"It seems as though one of the last links with Mrs. B. F., Miss Isla Stewart, and our pioneers is slipping away . . . but my heart has been with you and the loyal workers, thank you for all you have done."

MISS H. MCLOUGHLIN—

"I cannot express what I feel at the closing of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING the one free press for S.R.N. . . . It does seem the end of our day. . . . Please convey to the Council my sincere regret. . . . My grateful thanks to you who has done so and is doing so much for our Profession."

MISS F. E. SIMS—

"Our Journal was certainly the best of the Nursing Papers from many points of view, and of course you kept your membership to fully trained nurses."

MRS. E. BARNETT—

"I have just received your letter regarding THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and am grieved to hear of the decision to cease publication, and can well understand the reluctance and regret of the Council."

MISS E. E. ELLIS—

"One cannot express the inexpressible sorrow when reading the contents of your letter to many of we older nurses, it will be a terrible loss and I am intensely grieved about it. . . . To you dear Miss Bryson, may I say thank you for all you have done."

MISS F. A. H. WOOD—

"Words fail me to express my deep regret at the sad news of the passing of our so beloved BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, our faithful and inspiring friend for so many years. . . . I feel particularly grieved for you dear Miss Bryson, for Miss Angel and Miss Bowering, to whose hard work we have for many years been so deeply indebted for its continued existence in spite of enormous difficulties."

MISS M. CHICHESTER—

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have been responsible for the work of editing, etc., . . . which has kept us in touch with the Nursing Profession."

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