

at the proper site, and kept open by the occasional use of the bougie.

Whilst upon the subject of dysuria, I will touch upon the familiar cases of retention, or absence of urine, in newly-born infants. We know that urine is secreted during intra-uterine life, from the fact that it is passed during, or immediately after, birth, or it sometimes happens that one or two days may elapse, and anxiety arises on that account. Now, the two most frequent causes for the non-passing of urine are: 1st, absence of the secretion, the bladder being empty; 2nd, retention in the bladder; the first is of slight importance, the second, very serious. How are we to know one from the other? By palpation. If we find on examination a fulness and tenderness over the pubic region, we may assume that the bladder is full, and resort to a catheter, and I advise an Obstetric Nurse to add an infantile catheter to her "stores," as she will have it to hand, on the somewhat rare occasions we require it. The first-mentioned cause seems more difficult to account for, than the tardy secretion of urine, though, as far as the writer's experience goes, no harm comes of it. In breast-fed infants a scanty secretion of milk may account for it; in this case give baby a feed of milk and water, or milk and barley water; this, with the warm bath and a gentle purgative, which tends to slight straining efforts, will put things right.

In female infants, dysuria may arise from an acid condition of the urine; inflammation of the passages, or, more rarely, a vascular growth at the orifice of the meatus. Great care must always be exercised to keep the genitals clean, and I advise a plentiful use of vaseline, after washing or changing, to soothe the surfaces and protect them from irritation by the urine.

There is a distressing malformation peculiar to female infants that consists in the rectal and vaginal canals forming a common tract, and surgical skill cannot always deal with it. In infancy, the lesion is of little importance, but it is in early childhood that the miseries that spring from it, show themselves. It is easily detectable in very young infants, and hence would come in the first instance under the observation of the Nurse as the escape of the *fæces per vaginam* gives evidence of the mischief, which must always be reported to the medical attendant.

Sometimes there is a slight sanguineous discharge from the vagina; that, other things being normal, undoubtedly appears to come from the uterus, and these appearances give rise to a certain amount of alarm in the minds of mothers and nurses, which is unfounded, for, as a rule, no harm results from it. The daily bath, and perfect cleanliness, will be all that is required—the matter being rather one of interest than importance.

(To be continued.)

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



PRINCESS CHRISTIAN attended a Meeting of the Special Committee on Cholera Nursing on the 19th inst, at which the Hon. Sec., Miss GRACE GORDON, reported the satisfactory condition of the scheme. Miss CATHERINE LOCH, Lady Superintendent of the Indian Army Nursing Service, gave some interesting and useful information concerning the Nursing of Cholera in India, and Dr. HERON consented to again give lectures and instruction to classes of Nurses during the month of August.

* * * PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, who was last week on a visit to the Bishop of Wakefield at his new house in that city, attended a special service in the cathedral in connection with the second Triennial Diocesan Festival of the Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays. There was a large congregation, comprising the Mayors of Wakefield, Bradford, and Dewsbury, who attended in state, along with the City Council and magistrates. After the service, which included a sermon by the Archbishop of York, Her Royal Highness, attended by a military escort, opened a three days' bazaar in the Corn Exchange, where the party was received by the Bishop of Ripon. The formal dedication of a home in Wakefield for destitute boys was afterwards performed by the Princess.

* * * THE Annual Meeting of the R.B.N.A., held at Oxford, on Monday, was a great and memorable success. Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, attended by Miss EMILY LOCH, and a large number of Nurses, well-known medical men, and Matrons from London and Provincial Hospitals were present. Sir HENRY ACLAND, Bart., K.C.B., took the Chair at the business meeting, which was held in the Hall of Balliol College. The annual report and audited accounts, read by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer respectively, were duly adopted. The General Council for the next year was elected, and other business was transacted, of which we will give a verbatim report in our next issue.

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