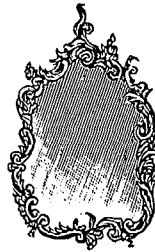


variable practice of bleeding, or the equally routine treatment of the administration of mercury. There can be no doubt that our forefathers were wise in removing blood in diseases in which modern knowledge shows there is an excess of vascular tension, and the full-blooded, port-drinking, beef-eating squire of their day was undoubtedly immensely relieved by the removal of fluid from his overloaded vessels. But, unfortunately, the treatment not being based upon this correct comprehension of physiological principles, was carried to an extreme, and applied without discrimination to any and every case of disease, with results so bad that, as a natural consequence, public opinion revolted against a measure which was manifestly and absolutely empirical. Consequently, the remedy fell first into disrepute, and finally passed almost entirely out of medical practice. Now, there are signs that the better understanding of the laws of health and disease is reviving a treatment, which in suitable cases, undoubtedly, yields results with which no other measure can compare. With mercury also, which was given in the early days of the century to every patient with any sign of inflammatory action, and given until the gums were affected and salivation was produced, the re-action came with equal force, and obliterated for a time the use of the drug by the popular dread of its effects, which had been so unreasonably and so unwisely aroused. Now, a more rational system of therapeutics has shown us that in some cases no drug is more beneficial, whilst in others no drug is more harmful; and, consequently, upon well understood lines, mercury has once more taken its proper position in the treatment of disease. So it has happened that electricity formerly vaunted as a specific cure for every ill to which flesh was heir, by a curious repetition of history has come to be looked upon, in these latter days, as the specific of the charlatan and the quack, whether in the form of an active current or of a passive Belt. From this unmerited disrepute it will in time, doubtless, again assume its proper position amongst medicinal agents; as an instance of which may be cited its employment in the treatment of rheumatism. It may be doubted and, in fact, it may almost be denied at once, that electricity will in any degree benefit cases of the acute affection, or even those in which there is any sign of sub-acute mischief. We believe that it will be found that its chief benefit will be gained in those cases of contracted muscles and thickened ligaments and tendons, which result from long standing implication and fixation of a joint. In these cases, by improving the tonicity and increasing the power of stiffened and thickened muscular tissue, it is easy to understand that the treatment may, and probably will, produce most beneficial results.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE QUEEN has sent her annual subscription of £21 to the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.

* * *

PRINCE CHRISTIAN of Schleswig-Holstein will preside on the occasion of the 49th Anniversary Dinner of the German Hospital, which will take place at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole on the 12th of April.

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MISS LINA CUNNINGHAM has been appointed Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Brixham, South Devon, the staff of which consists of three Nurses, two district midwives and one probationer. Miss CUNNINGHAM was trained at the Tottenham Hospital, and has also good experience in District and Private Nursing.

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MISS PSYCHE C. CROUCHLEY has been appointed Matron of the Leavesden Asylum vice Miss CRAIG, who resigns upon her approaching marriage. She has held the position of Chief Attendant at Whittingham Asylum, Preston.

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MISS COULTON, who is on the staff of the Courtney House Nursing Home, Shepherd's Bush, has been appointed by the Northampton County Council to give a ten weeks' course of Lectures, beginning on the 8th inst., in that county.

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THE Scottish Association for the Medical Education of Women has presented to the Edinburgh Infirmary the sum of £500.

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LIVERPOOL is justly proud of its Hospitals, and the report read at the annual meeting of the Northern Hospital must have been specially gratifying to the subscribers and governors. Amongst other items for congratulation we observe the following:— "The Nursing Institution in Paisley-street continues to prove of great service, both to the Hospital and to the general public. The fact that four Nurses from the staff were selected in October last, by the India Office, towards filling up six vacancies in the Indian Military Nursing Service, spoke for itself, and must be very gratifying both to the matron and the honorary medical staff, whose

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