

Take, for example, a case of *locomotor ataxy*; the man attempts to walk, and staggers forward, flinging his right foot aimlessly in front of him; brings it down to the ground with a thud, moves forward the body, and in like manner advances the left foot with a jerk. The muscles of his thigh and leg are not acting together as they would in health. In former days it used to be thought that this erratic walk was due to want of muscular power, but the common experiment of attempting to bend the leg of such a patient against his will proves, at once, that there is no loss of strength, but that the difficulty of locomotion is simply due to absence of proper nervous co-ordination.

To return to the nerve apparatus, we find that it consists of two distinct sets of nerves, each of which have what are called nerve centres, which we might describe as branch offices. These two systems are as intimately associated together as one office is, by its telegraphic communication with another office, and yet are so distinct that they may be very conveniently considered apart. They are termed the *cerebro-spinal* system and the *sympathetic* system. The former consists of the cerebro-spinal axis, in other words, the brain and spinal cord, and the cerebro-spinal nerves, which are given off from that axis. The latter comprise a chain of nerve centres which are known as sympathetic *ganglia*, which give off nerves and are intimately associated with the cerebro-spinal system by nerve cords. Nerves, whether sympathetic or cerebro-spinal, are made up of thin fibres, the structure of which, however, is somewhat different in the two systems. In the cerebro-spinal variety, these fibres are filaments composed of a very thin delicate outer membrane, forming, so to speak, a tube, down the centre of which runs a cylinder composed of very fine threads, and between the cylinder and the tube is a fluid which is found, on analysis, to contain a large amount of fatty material; these fibres lie side by side, bound together, as we saw the fibres of muscles were bound together, by delicate connective tissue to form a bundle, which is enclosed in a sheath of tissue called the *neurilemma*. In the trunks of the nerves the fibres remain perfectly distinct from one another, and rarely, if ever, divide; but when the nerves enter the central organs, and when they approach their terminations, they frequently divide into smaller branches. In any case, as they pass outwards from the central organ, they become gradually finer and finer until at length the axis, cylinder, sheath, and contents are no longer separable, and the nerve fibre is reduced to a delicate thread ending, as far as the skin and sensory organs are concerned, in little bodies, which are called *tactile corpuscles*. There is one difference between most nerves and those which supply the nose, and which, therefore, are endowed with the sense of smell, because these consist of pale, flat fibres without any obvious distinction in the tube and contents.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



By command of Her Royal Highness the President, a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Monday last, February 19th, at the Offices at 5 p.m., at which her Royal Highness was present.

The New Offices.—The attention of all members of the Corporation is called to the fact that the notices which have appeared in various papers concerning the date for the opening of the new offices is not correct. At present, no official announcement of any kind has been made with regard to this, as Her Royal Highness the President has not yet fixed the date. When this is done, due notice will be issued from the offices.

The Secretary begs to acknowledge with grateful thanks the kind promises of help which she has already received in answer to the appeal of the Editor of this Journal towards the furnishing of the new offices, and especially of the Nurses' Club Room. It is hoped that these rooms may be made very bright and comfortable, and any help towards this end is therefore much appreciated.

The Secretary, in reply to various inquiries on the subject, hopes to be able shortly to announce the detailed arrangements made for the Courses of Lectures which have not yet been quite concluded.

DAISY ROBINS,
Secretary and Registrar.

National Health Society.

President:—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.



ON Tuesday, the 20th inst., and the five following Tuesdays, at 5 p.m., Mr. Owen Lankester, M.R.C.S., will lecture on Hygiene at 15, Belgrave Square, by kind permission of the Duchess of Bedford. The interest which Her Grace takes in all subjects connected with national health is well known and fully testified to, among other proofs, by her unfailing attendance at the weekly discourses on training at the offices of the Society. Mr. Lankester's opening subject will be "The House, its situation, ventilation, warming, water supply, &c." All the lectures are to be illustrated by diagrams, and at the close of each, half an hour will be allowed for discussion and the answering of questions. On Wednesday, February 21st., at 4 p.m., Dr. Arthur Newsholme, M.O.H. for Brighton, delivered the second Lenten lecture at 53, Berners Street. His subject was "Diphtheria," its causation, the influence of the disease on milk, insanitary conditions, school attendance and personal infection, with further remarks on the relationship of Diphtheria to other sore throats, on the nursing of the patient, on precautionary measures and disinfection."

On Tuesday, the 20th inst., a trained Nurse delivered the first of six Homely Talks on Nursing at a Girls' Club, 139, Lavender Hill, Wandsworth.

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