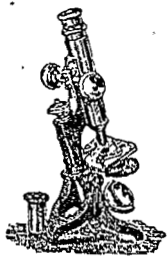


beginning work in a Children's Hospital, and when ultimately appointed Sister to a ward in a large London Nursing School, found my wide practical experience of great use, both as a Nurse and especially as a teacher. The more popular Registration of trained Nurses becomes—and, of course, it is now but a question of time when it will be legalised by Act of Parliament—the more co-operation we must have between the General and the Special Hospital.—Yours,  
 MARIAN GRAHAM.

## Medical Matters.

### THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE.



A contemporary has pointed out a new method by which disease of the outer ear can be, and is, transmitted very widely. It is becoming a popular amusement to use the phonograph, and in some towns the diminutive machine, which is necessary, is being carried about the streets and largely used, for a small charge, by all sections of the population. On placing the zylonite ends of the tubes well into the ears, one is treated to operatic music, humorous recitals, and a variety of other forms of entertainment. For education and amusement alike there is much to be said in its favour, but, unfortunately, it is well proved that a considerable number of people, who have thus enjoyed themselves, have been attacked by more or less serious local mischief, which in some instances, at least, has gone on to even dangerous consequences. It requires no professional knowledge to see the danger of infection thus being conveyed from one diseased surface to the auditory canals of a dozen other people.

### NERVE COMPRESSION.

It is a matter of general knowledge that indirect effects can be produced by compression of nerves, and, acting upon this fact, a well-known French medical man has recently treated, with great success, cases of obstinate hiccough by pressure upon the phrenic nerve as it passes from the neck into the chest. This is made by pressing the finger deeply between the origins of the sterno-mastoid muscle. But still more recently this treatment has been adopted in cases of spasm of the glottis. Everyone knows the extreme danger of this condition, and how patients thus attacked may be rapidly asphyxiated by the closure of the larynx. It was found, however, that in one case in which death appeared to be imminent, the pressure of the finger in this manner on the phrenic nerve produced an immediate cessation of the spasm. When the finger was removed, however, the glottis closed again, and it required perseverance for some time before the patient recovered completely. It is somewhat difficult to explain how this proceeding

can be so efficacious in such cases, except through the influence exerted on the recurrent laryngeal branch, which is given off below the spot at which pressure on the phrenic nerve would be possible, in the method which has been described. But in view, however, of the extreme gravity of these cases, and of the simplicity and apparent success of the treatment, it is well that it should be remembered.

### CHLORALOSE.

A series of very valuable experiments with this drug upon patients, most of whom suffered from severe brain disease, has recently been published. In all of them there was present a most obstinate degree of sleeplessness. Especially when given at night, it almost always induced sleep after a varying length of time, and this lasted for a longer or shorter period, not only in proportion to the dose, but according to some idiosyncrasy on the part of the patient. It answered best in melancholic insanity, and was least effective in those forms of mental disease in which excitement was present. Sleep induced by the drug seems to be markedly quiet, but not very deep, the patients being aroused by the slightest noise. Not only by its influence in thus according rest to the brain, but also by some tonic action which it seems to possess, the drug appears to be most valuable in cases of insanity other than those of acute mania.

### A NOVEL USE FOR PYREXIA.

It is reported in an American medical contemporary that a thrifty housewife in Ohio, observing that her husband, who was dying from phthisis, was suffering from extremely high temperature, used him as an incubator to hatch her hens' eggs. She took fifty of these, and wrapping each in cotton wool, laid them alongside the body of her husband and after three weeks was rewarded with forty-six lively young chickens. This encouraged her to try again, and this time she placed a hundred in position, and once again obtained a considerable brood. Trying for the third time, however, her husband's temperature fell below the necessary level, for he died before the incubation was completed. Not to be outdone, his relict placed the eggs in an oven in order by this means to finish the work which her husband had begun. Unfortunately, however, the bustle of the funeral caused this arrangement to be temporarily forgotten, with the result that the coming chickens were all hard baked. This, it will be observed, rounds off the story very nicely, for there is a flavour of poetic justice in it. Our contemporary charitably expresses the hope that in this world there is no incubator waiting for this lady, leaving it to be inferred what, in its opinion, are her prospects of enjoyment in a future state. It is, perhaps, needless to add that both these eggs and these chickens, doubtless, required a large amount of salt for their proper digestion.

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