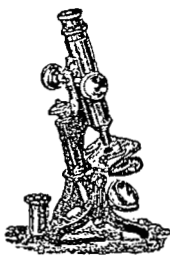


Medical Matters.

SIR. ANDREW CLARK.



Much interest has been aroused by the proposal to create some permanent memorial of the professional and public services of this eminent physician. At a meeting held at the Horse Guards on January 11th to consider this matter, the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, who took the chair, called attention to the great benefits which Sir ANDREW CLARK had conferred upon the London Hospital, and the lengthy and memorable connection which had existed between himself and that great Institution extending over a period of forty years. It was therefore proposed to collect subscriptions, and if sufficient money could be obtained, to erect a block of buildings as isolation wards, and this proposal, after some discussion, met with considerable favour. We observe with much interest that a member of the medical staff who supported the proposal said that "the proposed new wing was essential to the safe working of the Hospital, and to the greatest advantage of the patients." This confirms in the strongest manner statements which have been previously made in public as to the necessity of such an addition to the buildings at the London Hospital; and we trust, therefore, not only for the memory of Sir ANDREW CLARK, but for the benefit also of the patients at the Institution, that this proposal may meet with so much public support that it can speedily be adopted and carried into effect.

THE TREATMENT OF SCALPING.

Far removed as we are from the days of which Fennimore Cooper wrote, when it seemed to be a matter of chance whether a dweller or traveller in the vicinity of an Indian tribe, underwent the operation of scalping or not, it still remains a matter of great difficulty to surgeons to treat those who by accident have practically suffered from this operation. A German medical periodical recently reported the case of a girl, age 16, who had through an accident had the skin of her head torn completely off, the surfaces of the bones being exposed from the root of the nose almost to the nape of the neck. The treatment consisted in the transplantation of strips of skin taken from the patient's thighs to the front, upper, and lateral regions of the wound, and then, finally, the remaining raw surface behind was similarly covered with skin from the arms. The result was, that in four months the wound was completely covered over by a smooth,

supple, but of course quite insensitive scalp, which gradually acquired more and more of the appearance and character of the normal skin. It is interesting to notice that in other cases in which the grafts of skin were taken from other people, these failed to grow, or soon became ulcerated.

TYPHOID FEVER DURING PREGNANCY.

An interesting paper in a French medical journal, furnishes statistics concerning the effect of Typhoid Fever during pregnancy, with especial reference to the value of the cold bath in the treatment of this disease. It would appear that this measure greatly lessens the maternal mortality which was only 6 per cent. in cases where the cold bath was employed, being 17 per cent. where this remedy was not used. Incidental statistics are quoted to show that abortion takes place in 65 per cent. of the cases where the bath is not used, and in only 55 per cent. where the temperature is controlled by this measure. It is worth while remembering while on this subject that abortion does not seem, according to the generally accepted figures, to increase the danger of the patient in typhoid fever of an ordinary mild type, whereas it is a well-known fact that when the patient is suffering from small-pox, pneumonia, cholera, or severe typhoid, flooding after the miscarriage is severe, there is often dangerous collapse, and the complication is, generally speaking, a dangerous one.

HOT SAND BATHS.

A Russian physician advocates the use of hot sand baths in cases of rheumatism with slight fever, but the method would seem to be equally applicable, and, probably, at least equally useful, in all cases in which it was desired to excite the free action of the skin. Sand heated to 65 or 70 degrees is spread upon a blanket, and the patient is then apparently enveloped in the sand, being covered by an extra blanket; but it appears to us that the remedy would be equally useful, and much less subsequent discomfort to the patient would be caused, if a blanket intervened between the patient and the sand. The result has been that profuse perspiration was speedily introduced, and the patient's temperature rapidly fell. It is, however, evident that while there are advantages in such a bath as this to patients who cannot be lifted into a water bath it can only be used when the patient is free from any heart mischief, and is not suffering from any debilitating disease.

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