

practical experience. For it is by no means uncommon for patients suffering from uterine disease to show marked symptoms of cardiac mischief. It is by no means unusual—indeed, it is almost the general rule—for women who have suffered from extreme menorrhagia to evince the well-known clinical signs of heart disturbance from the loss of blood. They have the palpitation, the shortness of breath, and the constriction of the chest, which are such classical symptoms of hæmorrhage. And after the cause has continued for a certain length of time, organic disease in the heart muscle almost invariably follows; that is to say, the patients suffer from degeneration of the walls of the heart caused by the diminished and deteriorated blood supply. The point is of great practical importance, because it emphasizes the necessity for immediate interference, even of an operative character, as soon as signs of heart failure show themselves.

ANTITOXIN TREATMENT.

There seems some reason to believe that in the case of some diseases which have hitherto proved most intractable to treatment, such as tetanus and hydrophobia, the antitoxin treatment will prove to be successful. It is based on the belief that the poison of the disease passed through animals or a succession of animals in constantly diluted strength, confers immunity to the actual disease in those through whose system it has passed, and that the serum of the blood of the immunised animals can act as a direct antidote to, or cure of, the disease in other animals. In a recent number of a Berlin medical paper, an important case is recorded of a patient who, twenty-two days after a lacerated wound, showed symptoms of tetanus. Despite all treatment he became much worse, until two days afterwards, when the case appeared to be hopeless, serum from an immunised horse was injected, and an immediate improvement showed itself; the temperature fell and he became quieter. The next day the tetanic spasms appeared to increase again, and an injection of serum from an immunised dog was given. From that time he steadily improved, and although on several occasions slight recurrences of the spasm took place, they were on each occasion checked by injections of the antitoxin. In five days he was practically cured. The case is of immense importance, because, rare as these cases comparatively are, they have hitherto been regarded as almost hopeless; and still more important is this case from the impulse which it will undoubtedly give to the adoption of this system of treatment. In diphtheria, and in hydrophobia, the antitoxins are known to have produced very marked effects, and it may be only a short time before other diseases, which have proved equally difficult of treatment, yield equally good results.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



MISS ZARA STEVENSON has been appointed Matron at the General Hospital, Birmingham. Miss STEVENSON was trained for three years at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary; was then appointed Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, which post she held for three years, when she was promoted to be Matron of the Rotherham Hospital, a position she has filled with distinction. Miss STEVENSON'S testimonials speak highly of her qualifications, and the Weekly Board of the Rotherham Hospital "would extremely regret to have to part with her valuable services." We feel sure, however, they will congratulate her, as we do, upon her new appointment, and wish her success in her arduous work.

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WE regret to notice that the Committee of the Dorset County Hospital, at Dorchester, are again advertising for a Matron—this post has been vacant half-a-dozen times in the last few years. Surely, there must be something lacking in the management which necessitates so many changes in this important office?

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THE Croydon General Hospital was honoured last Saturday afternoon by a visit from the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, who opened the new wing erected at a cost of between £7,000 and £8,000. Among the gifts announced were Mr. Alderman F. F. EDRIDGE, £250; Mr. MARTIN TAYLOR, £250; Mr. Alderman THRIFT, a piano for the Nurses' sitting-room. The Archbishop referred to the fact that Hospitals for the sick was a distinctly Christian Institution, for Archæology had practically failed to find traces of such among the magnificent ruins of the past. The figure of Christ appeared with even greater beauty when by the bed of the sick or the dying or the dead. Inhumanity marked the treatment of the suffering till the religion of Christ taught men mercy and love; but there was little organization to meet the ravages of the plagues till the time of the Christian Bishop of Carthage, in the middle of the third century. Turning to the Nurses, their organization, however, belonged to our own time; and, now, wherever they went there was neatness, kindness and gentleness. One charming feature of the opening was the presence of a number of working men, to whom the Primate very gracefully referred. So great had been their help the Committee reserved a large range of seats

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