

notes of any such case with which they may meet in their work, or, indeed, notes of any case of Nursing interest. Recently, an interesting case was reported in which a child four years old, whose sisters were suffering from scarlet fever, was found to be suffering from chicken-pox. The day after the doctor had seen this typical eruption, the child became covered with the typical scarlatinal rash, and the two eruptions ran concurrently, each following its ordinary course, and both finally clearing off; desquamation of the skin following the scarlet eruption. Ten days afterwards the two sisters of the child, who had been suffering before from marked scarlet fever, developed the typical rash of chicken pox, which followed its ordinary course. The case is instructive, not only as illustrating the possibility of two zymotic diseases occurring together in the same patient, but also as a further example of the fact, which is well known in fever Hospitals, that patients who are admitted suffering from one fever seem especially liable, on recovering from that, to be attacked by other zymotic affections.

COCAINE POISONING.

A case was recently recorded in which a Nurse—of all people in the world—administered to herself, unwittingly, a poisonous dose of cocaine. She is said to have been “trained,” twenty-nine years old, and “a most capable and sensible woman.” Yet she injected into her arm twenty minims of a solution of hydrochlorate of cocaine, or, roughly, about five grains of the alkaloid. It appears that she was not aware that cocaine had any other than a purely local effect, and perhaps her physiological education had not informed her that substances placed under the skin are absorbed into the blood. When she, therefore, almost immediately afterwards, began to feel cold, she proposed to take a hot bath, but, fortunately, before she could get into it, she had considerable difficulty in breathing, and then became unconscious. When found, her extremities were cold, her pulse feeble, her breathing very shallow and jerky; the pupils were widely dilated, and had a fixed and vacant stare, and she seemed quite unable to swallow. She remained in this condition for some hours, and then fell asleep; after which she felt very sick, giddy, and weak, and this condition lasted for several days, while she had no recollection whatever of what had taken place subsequent to her going towards the bathroom. The morals of the case are obvious: that a knowledge of physiology and of the employment of drugs—especially of poisons—is essential for a trained Nurse, and that the administration to oneself of such medicines is not unusually associated with dangerous results, and cannot therefore be commended.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



ANOTHER adventurous lady has been found to fill the vacant post of Matron to the Dorset County Hospital at Dorchester. Miss JESSIE HAYES, the selected candidate, was trained at the Birmingham General Hospital, and was promoted to be Sister of the medical wards. Miss HAYES has lately been Night Superintendent at the Bristol General Hospital

THE following lectures are taking place at the Sanitary Institute:—

Friday, 30th.—Sanitary Law. English, Scotch and Irish; General Enactments Public Health Act, 1875; Model Bye-laws, &c. Prof. A. WYNTER BLYTH, M.R.C.S., Barrister-at-Law, Medical Officer of Health for St. Marylebone.

Monday, December 3rd.—Sanitary Laws and Regulations governing the Metropolis. LOUIS PARKES, M.D., D.P.H., Lond., Medical Officer of Health, Chelsea.

NOT only are punishments for crime becoming more and more merciful, but they are of a kind to shock as little as possible the susceptibilities of the public. There has been some doubt in America as to whether the apparently merciful execution by electricity is not fraught with horrible agonies to the criminal, and the possibility of resuscitation. A man WILSON is under sentence to be electrocuted next month; but the doctors in attendance have been given permission to attempt to resuscitate him. If they are successful, WILSON will be pardoned. This is National Vivisection with a vengeance!

Mrs. SAMUEL FORD SIMPSON and Mrs. WILLIAM E. SIMPSON have presented £1,000 to help on the endowment of the Hamilton branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, as a memorial of their family's former connection with the town.

ADMIRAL Sir GEORGE WILLES, G.C.B., who takes great interest in the Sailors' Orphan Girls School and Home situated in Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, is making a special appeal to raise £600 to carry out necessary internal and external repairs. The Home accommodates 100 inmates, and since its establishment in 1869 has benefited upwards of 800 children. To be eligible for admission, the girls must be orphans of British sailors and between the ages of 6 and 12. They are kept till 16; and then sent to service.

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