

ally. He argues, and with considerable force, that it is possible that if more care were exercised in the examinations of idiots and imbeciles, it might be discovered that their disease was largely dependent upon the functional inactivity of the thyroid gland. At any rate, this opens up a new and most important field of investigation, and it would be interesting to learn how thyroid treatment affects those who are undoubtedly insane.

INTESTINAL CONCRETIONS.

An Austrian medical journal has recently published some important cases of this complaint, in which there were gradually increasing symptoms of obstruction, which defied all treatment until hard, stony-like masses were discovered in, and were broken up and removed from, the rectum. There are many cases on the one hand of habitual constipation, and on the other of long continued diarrhæa, both due to the blocking and consequent atony, or irritation, of the intestines by such concretions; and the presence of these is especially probable in those who have suffered from the symptoms of gall-stones, or in women of sedentary habits.

NEURALGIA AFTER AMPUTATION.

It is well known how frequently patients, who have had a limb removed, experience severe attacks of neuralgia in the resulting stump. It has been generally supposed that this is caused by the formation of neuromata at the end of the divided nerves. A German surgeon, however, who has recently written a paper on this subject, gives some strong reasons for believing that it is not so much the swelling which ensues at the end of the divided nerves which causes the pain, as the fact that these swellings are often bound down by tough, cicatricial tissue to the end of the bone. When the physiology of the nerve is remembered, and its very delicate, almost fluid, contents, it is evident that its termination must be perfectly free from pressure or other forms of irritation if it is to perform its functions satisfactorily. When the end of a nerve is tied down by bands to a bone, as occurred in the cases examined by the author of the paper in question, it is plain that movements of the limb must cause stretching of the nerve, and consequent tension upon the attached end. In other words, the neuralgia would, in such cases, be due clearly to irritation of the nerve rather than to the fact that the end was swollen. The author, therefore, recommends that in every amputation of a limb, the nerves should receive as much care as the arteries, and that they should be carefully pulled away from the flaps and divided high up so as to prevent any inclusion of their ends either in the flap or in cicatricial tissue.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE QUEEN has been pleased to confer the honour of a baronetcy on Dr. JOHN WILLIAMS, of Brook Street.

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At a meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Mr. J. WHITAKER HULKE, F.R.S., was re-elected president of the College. Mr. REGINALD HARRISON and Mr.

ALFRED WILLETT were appointed vice-presidents.

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DR. EDWARD SEATON and Dr. G. V. POORE, the delegates of the Royal College of Physicians of London to the eighth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, which is to assemble at Budapest, on September 1st, have been elected honorary presidents of Sections V. and XV. respectively by the organising committee of the congress.

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MISS G. MAREDYDD HARRISON has been appointed lady superintendent of a new "Private and Daily Visiting Nurses' Home," just opened at 2, Grafton Street, Bolton. Miss HARRISON was trained at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and has had a varied experience in Nursing work. She is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a registered Nurse.

* * *

THE Metropolitan and National Nursing Association (21, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.) exists to provide trained Nurses for the sick poor. From the 18th annual report, just issued, we learn that 1,389 home cases were nursed during the year, as compared with 968 in 1892 and 761 in 1891, while timely attention was given to 361 school children, suffering from burns, scalds, &c. At the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, which is in connection with the Association, twelve Nurses completed their training, four candidates were sent for hospital training, and twelve remained at the end of the year. Boards of Guardians and medical institutions continue by their subscriptions to show their appreciation of the work. New subscribers are needed to fill the vacant places of old friends who have died.

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CONTRIBUTIONS have been made to Colonel GILDEA'S Fund for Nurses, in connection with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, by the following City companies — viz.: The Mercers', £52 10s.; the Clothworkers', £50; the Fishmongers', £26 5s.; and the Skinners', £21.

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