

part in the production of various lesions of the skin. If a number of trivial cuts and scratches are discovered as a result, according to an hysterical patient, of an assault upon her by somebody else, it is an almost accepted rule to believe in the probability of the injuries being self-inflicted. In many of these cases there can be no doubt that the desire of the patient is to obtain either sympathy or perhaps admission to a hospital; in any case to become an object of popular interest. All Hospital Nurses have seen instances in which wounds or ulcers seemed impossible to heal until the doctor ordered strapping or other measures so as to prevent any possibility of the patient interfering with the healing process.

A TEST MEAL.

A FRENCH physician has proposed an ingenious idea for the determination of the causes of indigestion. He suggests that patients suffering from this should be given a breakfast consisting of a pint of fluid, which may be either coffee with milk, or tea with a little milk and sugar, one or two rolls, or pieces of toast, without butter. And he points out that this diet will cause definite symptoms in those suffering from indigestion, by means of which the particular cause can be defined. For example, pain occurring a quarter of an hour after a meal would be due to some inflammatory condition of the stomach or duodenum. Pain coming on some two hours after food in the shape of heat in the epigastrium and heartburn would denote an excess of hydrochloric acid in the secretions of the stomach; whereas if the meal were followed by a sensation of fulness or feeling of heaviness, there would be undoubtedly a diminution in the normal amount of hydrochloric acid; and painful cramps and vomiting occurring within an hour after the meal would denote some interference with the muscular or nerve tissues of the stomach.

FATAL VOMITING IN PREGNANCY.

This is a rare occurrence, but one which is found with sufficient frequency to make its treatment very important. As a general rule a fatal result occurs in cases of pregnancy associated with some displacement or fixation of the uterus which interferes with its proper development, and in consequence reflex disturbances are set up resulting in the persistent vomiting. In the NURSING RECORD quite recently an important case was reported by a Nurse, in which the complete removal of the uterus was rendered necessary by the fact that the vaginal opening had completely closed, that the enlargement of the uterus was prevented by adhesions

consequent on a previous operation, and that the vomiting which was thus produced was exhausting the patient's strength. Other cases have recently been reported, in an American contemporary, in which fatal results followed from vomiting induced by flexion and fixation of the pregnant uterus. It is interesting to observe that in each of these cases the patient complained of great pain behind the breast-bone, which was clearly of reflex origin. The general treatment in these cases is to induce labour and so remove the cause of the terrible exhaustion. But it is noteworthy that if the vomiting be permitted to exist for too long a period the patient may be so exhausted as to be unable to recover from the process of delivery.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Worshipful Company of Fishmongers has contributed 500 guineas to St. Thomas's Hospital special fund for opening the closed wards.

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The Directors of the Bank of England have granted a donation of 500 guineas in aid of the special fund for opening the closed wards of St. Thomas's Hospital.

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The following lectures will be given next week at the Sanitary Institute, Margaret Street, W.—

Tuesday, 12th.—Nature of Nuisances, including Nuisances the abatement of which is difficult. ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Brighton.

Wednesday, 13th.—Inspection and Demonstration of the Disinfecting Station, &c., at St. Pancras, at 3 p.m. (Number limited).

Friday, 15th.—Trade Nuisances. PROF. A. BOSTOCK HILL, M.D., D.P.H. Camb., F.I.C., Medical Officer of Health Aston Rural Sanitary Authority.

Saturday, 16th.—Inspection at the Aylesbury Dairy Company's premises. (Number limited.)

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The special course of lectures commenced in February, at the lecture room of the National Health Society, by Dr. A. T. Schofield, continues to be very well attended, H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany being among the most regular members of the class. The lectures have been particularly interesting, each one being fully illustrated by a splendid microscopic display, lantern slides, &c.

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