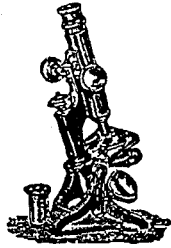


Medical Matters.

DRUNKARDS' CHILDREN.



AN American journal, which is devoted to the advocacy of temperance, has published observations upon the children of twelve families of drunkards and twelve of temperate parents. We cannot, of course, answer for the facts given by our contemporary, but they are sufficiently striking. They may be tabulated as follows:

	Drinkers.	Temperate.
Number of children ...	57	61
Deaths under one week old...	25	6
Idiots ...	5	0
Dwarfs (stunted in growth)...	5	0
Epileptics ...	5	0
Chorea, ending in idiocy ...	1	0
Deformed and diseased ...	5	0
Hereditary drunkards ...	2	0

One of the above is counted under two categories, leaving only 10 out of 57 children of drunken parents who showed normal constitutions.

HIP DISEASE.

THE importance of hip disease chiefly consists of the two most important consequences, either the formation of an abscess in or around the joint, or in the extreme deformity of the limb which may follow the disease. The modern treatment which has proved so immensely successful both in the prevention of pain and in subsequent cure, consists, of course, in assisting nature to prevent movement in the joint. The long splint is used to fix the hip, and by so doing prevents the terrible pain caused by muscular spasm and the sudden jerking together of the inflamed joint surfaces. But at the same time it must be remembered that nature's object is also to throw the limb into an abnormal position in order to save this friction, so that when a cure has been effected by means of modern treatment, it is usual to have very considerable deformity. There is, however, no doubt that it is possible to correct this and even to employ appliances in the original treatment which will modify its occurrence. The greater number of cases, however, are usually overlooked in the early stages, when indeed the diagnosis is most difficult, and as a recent writer on this subject points out, it is more common for some degree of deformity to occur before the symptoms become sufficiently marked to draw attention to the real nature of the complaint. An important

article which has lately been published upon this matter shows that it is possible in a large number of instances by subcutaneous osteotomy, that is to say, by fracturing the bone by a chisel, to bring its ends into such a position, that when firmly reunited the limb shall be nearly free from deformity. A large number of cases are recorded in which the cure was complete, while in the majority thus treated, a greater amount of flexibility and a greatly lessened degree of deformity were obtained.

TIPS.

ESPECIALLY in the study of anatomy and physiology, the medical student yearns for "tips"—that is to say, for some mnemonic arrangement which will enable him to remember some difficult or obscure arrangement of muscles or nerves. And generation after generation of medical students retail these for the benefit of their successors in the dissecting room. Many, unfortunately, of the best tips get lost because it has hitherto appeared to be beneath the dignity of the acknowledged text-books to record or notice them. It would be well, therefore, if Nurses could be instructed in this matter, considering the large amount of anatomical knowledge which they are now expected to receive and remember. One of the best American tips consist of the nonsensical lines—

"On old Olympian's piny top,
A fat armed girl prepares a hop."

The initial letter of each word constituting a mnemonic showing the order of the cranial nerves. On represents Olfactory; Old, Optic; Olympian, Ocular-motor; Piny, Pathetic; Top, Trigeminal; A, Abducent; Fat, Facial; Armed, Auditory; Girl, Glosso-pharyngeal; Prepares, Pneumogastric; A, spinal Accessory; Hop, Hypoglossal. So again, the word Maps denotes the arrangement of the spinal nerves; M standing for the Motor nerves which are given off A, Anteriorly; while P, the Posterior branches are S, the Sensory nerves. And the valves of the heart have to many generations of students been designated by "Martin Luther, The Reformer"; the Mitral valve, of course, being on the Left side, and the Tricuspid being on the Right. The same arrangement also reminds the learner that there are three lobes to the right lung, while the left lung has usually only two, corresponding to the two divisions of the Mitral valve and the three divisions of the Tricuspid. Without further examples, Nurses may well be recommended to adopt a similar method in their work and to invent for themselves mnemonics whereby they can remember various anatomical and difficult facts.

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