

reported in America it appears that a gentleman suffered from hiccough in a peculiarly obnoxious form, for it is stated that it was persistent for ten days and nights, during which time the patient had, it is said, 257,520 spasms! It is possible, of course, that either the patient himself became so weak that his arithmetical powers were affected, or that the imagination of the observer was hyper-vivid. Because to hiccough more than a quarter of a million times in ten days is probably beyond the ability of any mortal diaphragm to compass.

#### MUSSEL POISONING.

It is well known that some forms of shell-fish, especially mussels, cause symptoms of poisoning, but, as a rule, this takes the form of an irritable eruption of wheals upon the skin, with vomiting and diarrhoea, to which the name of Urticaria is given. In rare cases, however, there is a simultaneous swelling of the mucous membrane of the air tubes, probably analogous to the rash upon the skin. At any rate, the patient is seized, as in a case recently reported, with extreme difficulty of breathing, simulating an attack of severe asthma. The only method of treatment, of course, consists in the removal, as speedily as possible, of the poisonous material from the system. An emetic is therefore usually given so as to clear the stomach, and is followed shortly afterwards by a large dose of castor oil. The difficulty of breathing may require injections of ether or brandy, or even the inhalation of nitrite of amyl. As a rule, the patients recover under such treatment, but, very rarely, the closure of the glottis is so complete that death follows.

#### CARBOLIC ACID POISONING.

THE idiosyncrasy shown by some patients to the use of carbolic acid is very marked. Two such cases have recently been reported, which should serve as a warning to Nurses when similar symptoms show themselves in any patients under their care. The first case was that of a boy aged fifteen, who had a compress of lint soaked in a 1 in 20 carbolic acid solution placed over the right thigh, in preparation for a forthcoming operation. About seven hours afterwards he became very sick and in another seven hours was quite comatose. The breathing was stertorous, the pulse could hardly be counted at the wrist, the pupils were small, and he was in a profuse perspiration. Brandy and strychnia were given with apparently little effect; he slowly recovered, passed some very dark urine, loaded with carbolic acid, and for several days afterwards, had a high pulse and temperature, and was occasionally sick. The second patient

—a boy eighteen months old—had a compress soaked in 1 in 20 carbolic solution applied to the right thigh previous to an operation. An hour later, the child groaned and in a few minutes became pale, collapsed and comatose. There was marked shortness of breath and convulsive twitching of the eyelids and limbs; the pulse was 130, the respiration 72, and the temperature sub-normal. For several days, there was vomiting and carbolic acid in the urine. In neither of these cases was there any possibility of carbolic acid having been taken internally, and in both cases the poisoning resulted simply from absorption of an ordinary lotion through the skin. The cases are most instructive, for they illustrate the necessity that Nurses should remove the compress in such cases immediately signs of poisoning manifest themselves.

### Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE House Committee and a large number of governors and workers of the Morley House Convalescent Home met on the 26th at the Home at St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, to consider the advisability of replacing the old building with a new and more convenient structure. The cost of rebuilding is estimated at about £3,000, and an appeal is to be made to the public for this amount in order that the new wing may be in readiness to receive patients next spring. There is ample room in the large wing built three years ago to accommodate the number of patients likely to be received during the winter.

The Westminster Hospital has just been re-opened after some extensive alterations. The Duke of Westminster, the President of the Hospital, will hold a reception of the governors, subscribers, and their friends on Friday from three to five o'clock in the afternoon, when the building will be open to inspection. Dr. Bridge has consented to give an organ recital in the chapel.

The Mayor of Accrington, on the 26th inst., laid the foundation-stone of a Cottage Hospital for the Accrington district. The building will cost about £4,000, all of which has already been subscribed. Ten bands of music, the members of the local friendly and trade societies, fire brigade, ambulance corps, and volunteers took part in the demonstration, which was a great success.

Professor John Struthers, M.D., LL.D., has been elected President for the ensuing year of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Sir Thornley Stoker, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, is to be entertained at dinner on Saturday, November 2nd, in honour of his having received a knighthood.

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