

that way!' So far as my own experience teaches me she was right; but I have not yet met with a satisfactory and thoroughly scientific explanation of Cheyne-Stokes breathing, nor of its prognostic value."

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The good old lady with the "knitting" would have been terribly mystified by the scientific term of "Cheyne-Stokes breathing," but her observation and intuitive faculties led her to a right conclusion. Certainly the "old style Nurse," in spite of her errors and ignorances, had a goodly share of natural faculty.

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Sir J. Russell Reynolds deprecated a recent suggestion that apparently new diseases should derive their names from the patients who first exhibited them, which would add a new terror to life. The feelings of a nervous patient cannot accurately be described when he discovered that his malady was to be handed down to all time as the "Henry Thomas Clarke" disease and so on. It would almost amount to the individual acquiring a patent in a particular disease, and disputes might arise as to the legality of some one else infringing on the right!

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A NEW departure has been made during this last winter in Liverpool, by the organisation of cookery for the invalid poor, whose opportunities of suitable diet when ill are practically *nil*. It is hoped that this step in the right direction will lead to great dietary reforms, not only in our Hospitals but in our district Nursing systems.

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In Liverpool the food is prepared at the *depôt* by an efficient cook, according to medical instructions, and taken to the homes of the poor by a staff of voluntary lady attendants, who wear a special uniform on their rounds. Over fifty invalids were catered for daily during the past winter. The *menu* for invalids comprises beef-tea, mutton broth, strong beef essence, fish, milk pudding of various kinds, gruel and refreshing temperance beverages, all at the very lowest price compatible with production. This form of relieving the sick poor is greatly patronised by charitable and medical institutions, and by the clergy. The "invalid food carrier" is an ingenious construction shaped like a pitcher, with four compartments, containing two courses each for four people. A "cosey" of dark felt covers the carrier, serving the double purpose of keeping the food hot and of neatness. Plans are already in preparation to extend this form of helping the poor by means of a great diet dispensary, to be opened next winter.

Medical Matters.

CEREBRAL SURGERY.



A CASE has recently been reported in an American contemporary which conclusively proves the value of modern surgery to patients suffering from brain injuries. A boy, aged 16, a coal-miner, was struck on the back of his skull by some falling slate, so that his head was forced downwards upon a bolt at the corner of a coal box, and so a compound fracture of the left frontal bone was caused. He left the mine, walked some distance home, and was there attended by a doctor. He seemed for a time to suffer no ill consequences from the accident, except occasional headache, but after some weeks, gradually became ill, and about eighty days after the injury he had a convulsion, and became comatose. The old wound, which had never healed, was opened up, the fracture was found to be very extensive, and by means of the trephine several fragments of the inner plate of the skull, which had become depressed upon the brain, were removed. It was found that the irritation of these fragments had caused an abscess in the brain; this was opened, about three ounces of pus were evacuated, and the wound was freely irrigated and drained. The boy became conscious, but had, for some days afterwards, considerable pain in the head, with attacks of vomiting; then symptoms of compression of the brain became very marked, and the pads over the wound were removed, and the sutures of the scalp wound were taken out, the brain then bulging through the wound and forming an ordinary cerebral hernia. After about six weeks this protrusion was ligatured through its base and cut away, and the scalp wound was once more closed. It entirely healed up, and some sixteen months afterwards the boy was in good health, the scar on the forehead was less noticeable, and except for a little deficiency in memory, his brain power seemed to be normal. Only a few years ago, such treatment as this would have been regarded as impossible, or, at any rate, heroic. Now the advances of surgery have not only made such operations feasible, but have made it difficult to define any limits to surgical measures in the future.

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