

necessarily rough handling that a woman serving her apprenticeship in Nursing would be likely to give to an amputated limb or a hip-disease case? We are sure this gentleman would strongly object to a novice learning her art by practising on him. And yet he has no hesitation in handing over the helpless sick of the Chard Infirmary to the ministrations of a pupil Nurse. It is very likely that Mr. Henry Chaplin will show by the action he takes in this matter that, although, as the Chairman sarcastically remarked, he is only a Probationer President of the Local Government Board, he is quite acquainted with his duty of protecting the sick in our Infirmarys from incompetent Nursing.

At the Redruth Board of Guardians a miner named Peters applied for relief under what Canon Chappel termed most distressing circumstances. His wife was seriously ill, and being unable to obtain any woman to nurse her, he had to give up his work and stay at home to nurse her. Some thought the husband was fonder of Nursing than of working underground, and it would be better for the Guardians to pay for a Nurse and let the man go to work. The case was left in the hands of the relieving officer to engage a Nurse if he thought necessary.

So the self-constituted Nurse will fain have to return to his "underground duties," which we quite agree with him are not of so pleasant a nature as is attendance in a sick room.

A CORRESPONDENT from Sydney writes:—

"I am in touch with many Nurses in this city, and I think we all agree that Nursing in Sydney is on the decline at the present time. Colonials, as a rule, are kind, easy-going people, and do not insist upon any professional guarantee from their Nurses. Midwifery classes are now being held, composed of the most illiterate people, who, having obtained their certificate from a 'Home,' boast of their skill, and are, without doubt, succeeding well.

There are about twenty 'Homes' in and around Sydney, with, probably, about ten so-called Nurses in each; much of the Nursing is also done by married women, who live in their own homes, and are of the Gamp style. The Hospitals, six in number, are well kept, the Nurses receiving a three years' training.

I have been out here seven years, and have done very well, having worked up for myself a large and remunerative connection, but the supply of Nurses is quite equal to the demand, and English Nurses, as a rule, find keen competition in those Nurses who have been born and trained in this country."

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Medical Matters.

WHOOPING COUGH.



THE use of Cocain in the treatment of whooping cough is becoming more frequent, and there is no doubt that in a great many cases a marked improvement follows the administration of this drug. In a large number of children treated by this method, the general condition has been found to rapidly improve; the frequency of the cough and the consequent attacks of vomiting diminish, and sleep therefore can be more easily obtained. A little relaxation of the bowels occurred in most cases, but whether this were due or not to the drug, it was a result which was, in many instances, clearly beneficial. Considering that there is no doubt that whooping cough is due to the irritating effect of some microbe not yet clearly defined, and which has a local habitat in the mucous membrane of the air passages, it is probable that Cocain acts not so much as a curative as a palliative measure of treatment in this disease. That is to say, it does not directly attack the germ which causes the disease, but by allaying the irritation of the throat produced by the germ it minimises its effects upon the patient, and by improving the general health helps indirectly to shorten the attack.

HYSTERIA AND HEART DISEASE.

A CASE which has recently been put on record is eloquent of the manner in which obscure forms of heart disease may cause symptoms which are mistaken for those of ordinary hysteria. The patient, a girl aged twenty-six, had for several months been subject to attacks of shortness of breath, fainting fits, and occasional loss of sensation, or even of power, in the left side. The heart's action was excited, but it was apparently never imagined by her friends that there was any heart disease present; and it was only when the patient developed a more severe attack than usual that medical assistance was obtained; all her friends having previously insisted, with one accord, in regarding her as suffering from hysteria. It was then, however, discovered that the mitral valves were extensively diseased, and it became quite evident that the roughened valves had caused the occasional formation of small clots, which, being swept into the brain circulation, had from time to time blocked various small vessels, and thus had caused the symptoms which had been so misinterpreted. The case by no means stands alone, and it shows the

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