

whose development was dwarfed was found after death to have suffered from a marked congenital narrowing of the mitral orifice. The blood therefore was unable to pass, as freely as it should, from the left auricle into the left ventricle, and consequently while the former was considerably enlarged to meet the extra strain and distension of its cavity, the ventricle was abnormally small because it had never been sufficiently expanded by the proper amount of fluid. It had not therefore been able to propel the blood through the system with the necessary force, and so the child had grown up with a persistent weakness and smallness of the chief cavity of the heart. The reason therefore for the dwarfing of its growth can easily be understood, and the case furnishes an example of the cause and effect so often observed in children suffering from congenital imperfection of the circulation.

A RATTLESNAKE BITE.

A CURIOUS case of recovery from a bite of a rattlesnake was recently reported in an American journal. The patient was a Mexican boy, aged fourteen, who was undoubtedly bitten on the right hand by a very virulent rattlesnake. A neighbour immediately tied a ligature very tightly round the boy's arm, completely constricting it, and this remained on for twelve hours until medical assistance could be obtained. The arm was then enormously swollen and the pulse could not be felt in it at all. Stimulants were freely given and a cooling lotion was applied to the limb. The swelling spread up to the neck and around it, across the chest and down the right side of the body, and the skin became discoloured in purple and blackish patches. This condition gradually passed off, and the boy completely recovered. This case is a curious one, because it would seem to teach the lesson that if the poison can be prevented, for a few hours, from passing into the circulation, it may either be neutralised in the tissues or may even perhaps be thrown off by the skin. The swelling of the limb in this case was evidently due to the extreme constriction to which its vessels had been exposed for so many hours; because, as the circulation became re-established, the œdema subsided. The usefulness of stimulants in cases of snake poisoning is well recognised.

The Plague.

WE have to thank numerous correspondents for their prompt response to our suggestion that nurses were needed to help to nurse the plague-stricken in Bombay; and we feel sure that they will hear with great satisfaction that the Government having, through the India Office, been requisitioned this week to send nurses to Bombay, have, with admirable promptitude, made arrangements to comply with the request. The most suitable candidates from the volunteers are now being selected by the Medical Board of the India Office, and will proceed to India at the earliest possible date.

The nurses who have been accepted for service in India have been engaged under the rules and regulations for the Indian Army Nursing Sisters, and will therefore begin their work under Government control, and under the most favourable circumstances possible, considering the terrible difficulties with which the Indian Government have to contend; and from what we know of the nurses chosen, we feel sure that they will undertake their new work in the right spirit, ready and willing to meet and overcome daily difficulties, and to show once more that where there is laborious and dangerous work to be done there are plenty of women willing and able to do it. These plucky volunteers set sail we feel sure, with warm good wishes for their safe return from every reader of the NURSING RECORD, which congratulates itself in no small degree, that it was the first organ in the press to call them to arms; through its medium, and the courtesy of the editors of the lay Press, who inserted our letter last week on the necessity for prompt action in sending nurses to Bombay, the valuable services of thoroughly trained nurses have been secured for the plague-stricken.

We hear, through a private source, that the arrangements of the new plague hospital in Bombay, known as the Arthur Road Hospital, are of the simplest, the difference between the hospitals at present in working order, and the new emergency one, being described as similar to the difference between a Belgravian mansion and an East End cottage. We understand also that the floors of the Arthur Road Hospital are of mud.

Doubtless the best arrangements have been made that could be made at the present crisis. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that earth floors cannot be washed, and also that it is a well-known fact that in tropical countries the surface soil teems with the germs of disease, so much so that in some countries if soil be disturbed—as, for instance, in digging

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