

IRONERS CRAMP.

THIS is a complaint which has only recently been described, but which seems to be increasing amongst women engaged in ironing clothes. The typical features are that the two middle fingers of the right hand become numb; and pain is felt, which is apparently most severe at night, running from the right wrist to the elbow. The fingers then become cramped and stiff, so that they cannot be easily bent. If the occupation is persisted in, painful cramps in the muscles of the forearm follow, and then muscular power is more or less completely lost. The cause of the complaint is evidently due to the pressure of the flat iron upon the fingers and palm of the right hand, and the symptoms are entirely explainable by the well-known facts that such pressure not only causes local loss of nerve-power, but also reflex pain along the affected limb. So far as treatment is concerned, nothing seems to do much good until the cause is removed—that is to say, until the occupation is relinquished. The complaint does not appear to be very common, and it seems to occur most frequently amongst delicate girls who have only recently commenced the occupation in question.

PREGNANCY AFTER OVARIOTOMY.

A REMARKABLE case has recently been published of a patient from whom, on October 20th, 1892, a large right ovarian cyst was removed which weighed 25 lbs.; while from the left side another cyst weighing 6 lbs. was also removed. The operator is confident that both cysts were ovarian in their nature, and that both were removed close to the uterus. But on June 10th, 1894, the patient gave birth to a male child weighing 10½ lbs.; and on February 26th, 1896, she was delivered of a second male child weighing 8 lbs. A further remarkable feature in the case is that for more than six years preceding the operation the patient had not had a child, and during the whole of that time at least one of the tumours was known to be growing. So that the almost unique fact is shown that the removal of both ovaries, which invariably produces sterility, actually terminated the sterility in this case. The probability, of course, is that a small piece of healthy ovarian tissue must have been tied in the ligature, and that the Fallopian tube must have remained attached to this piece of ovary, so that ova were able to pass from the latter into the uterus.

Annotations.

NURSES FOR CRETE.

WE have been approached during the past week by a lady well known for her deep sympathy with human suffering, concerning the organisation of a corps of volunteer nurses for service in Crete and elsewhere, should war break out between Greece and Turkey, she having received piteous letters from Athens descriptive of the misery and destitution of the Cretan refugees, and showing how impossible it will be for these persecuted Christian people to provide organised nursing help for themselves. We have promised help and support for her scheme, should it become necessary to send nurses to the seat of war, as the peculiar political exigencies of the Concert of the Powers render official help most doubtful. We have, however, absolute faith in "Christian England" finding the funds, and in England's nurses responding to the call of duty.

A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY.

THE responsibility which nurses assume when they advise patients to take alcoholic stimulants is exemplified by a case in which a woman was charged with assaulting her husband at the South-western Police Court. The same woman a week before had been charged by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with "wilful neglect." The husband, who holds a position which brings him in a comfortable income, states that he can only point to the cause of his wife's downfall, to a nurse's strong recommendation to take stout. The husband speaks with regretful sadness of the pleasant memories of their early married life. Now everything is changed, he has practically no home, and comfort is unknown to him. This instance should convince nurses that they should leave the responsibility of recommending stimulants to the medical man. They have no need, and indeed no right, to incur the very grave responsibility which such a prescription entails. We are of opinion that nurses, as well as their patients, should refrain from systematically taking stimulants, and should take milk, and other non-alcoholic drinks, which impart a real, instead of a fictitious strength.

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Fine Rich, and Delicious

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