

be needed, but from their special desire to do anything in their power to assist, in the smallest degree, a nation whose struggles for freedom have always elicited the deepest interest and sympathy in England, and whose reigning Family is so closely related to their own beloved future Queen.

Medical Matters.

WHOOPIING COUGH.



THIS painful and troublesome affection has probably never received amongst the public the attention which its importance deserves. As comparatively few die directly from the complaint, it is by many people regarded as one of the incidental evils of childhood from which everyone must suffer. As a matter of fact, it is not nearly so contagious as measles or the mumps; and it may cause secondary disease of the lungs, or general constitutional weakness, either of which may ultimately prove fatal. The attention, therefore, which medical men have always given to the subject can easily be understood, and one of the most recent methods of treatment will probably prove to be specially valuable in preventing subsequent illness. This consists in inhalations of Ozone from ten to fifteen minutes, twice a day. The results have been carefully noted by French physicians in a considerable number of cases; and they have found that in every case there was a marked diminution both in the severity and in the frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, within a few hours from the commencement of this treatment. When the inhalations were discontinued after the first two or three days, there was always a recurrence of the symptoms. A cure was effected in from nine to fifteen days—a result which certainly compares very favourably with that obtained by many other remedies. These facts are especially interesting, because they probably explain the well-known benefit obtained by sending children suffering from whooping cough to the seaside, where, as is well known, the air is more largely charged with ozone than it is in inland places. The French physicians to whom we have alluded have

also tested the effects of ozone in the treatment of tubercular diseases of the lungs, and have apparently obtained encouraging results. This method, however, has been already tried to a very considerable extent by observers in this and other countries, and they have found that while pure oxygen relieved the cough in many cases of consumption, and to a certain extent diminished the amount of expectoration, the effects were by no means permanent so far as improving the conditions of the lung tissue, and of the blood were concerned. It would, from a physiological standpoint, be fair to assume that the effects produced by oxygen would be similar to those of ozone, and therefore, while we cannot but think that the gas may prove to be very valuable in the treatment of whooping cough, we fear that its effects in consumption may not be so generally satisfactory.

BEDSORES.

A FRENCH surgeon has recently called attention to certain cases in which he has observed bedsores occur after the performance of the removal of the uterus. But as he has only had, apparently, 6 cases out of 532, it is impossible to regard the occurrence as indicative of any special connection between the operation and the skin affection. It appears to us that it is more probable that the cause of the bedsores in these six cases was bad nursing, rather than the destruction of nerve tissue to which their occurrence is attributed by the observer in question. Upon all patients who have an abdominal operation performed, absolute rest in the supine position is rigorously enforced for several days; and all specialists, and all nurses who have any experience of such cases, are well aware that in such cases therefore the tendency to bedsores is very great. Indeed, in some patients, who have been wasted and exhausted by long-continued suffering previously, it is often with the utmost difficulty that bedsores can be prevented after the operation is performed. It is for this reason that most operators lay the utmost stress on the patient being placed on a special bed, and that the utmost care is always enjoined upon nurses to watch for and to guard against any signs of destruction of the skin. Cleanliness, dryness, and the relief, as far as possible, of long-continued pressure on any particular part, are the golden rules for the Nurse to remember.

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