

and I was getting worn out physically and mentally, and was at my wits' end to know how to deal with her. The question as to whether her suffering was mental, physical, neurosis, hysteria, or disease was apparently no nearer a solution.

I then had a talk with her, showing her how wrong it was of her to give way in the manner she was doing and causing so much trouble and expense, suggested a change to the seaside and entreated her to make an effort herself. She quite jumped at the idea of the sea, brightened up, pulled herself together, even helped me choose and pack her things, and the morning of her departure she dressed herself and drove off in very good spirits, telling the gentleman she would soon be back to make preparations for his wedding.

In the train she noticed I was looking pale and gave me some brandy and Brand's Essence, reproaching herself of being the cause of my indisposition: in fact, she became the nurse and I the patient. I allowed it to be so, because I thought it was good for her to forget herself. When we reached our destination, she spoke with delight about the freshness of the air and expressed every hope and wish to get well. We had charming rooms with a delightful view and everything looked bright and promising, but my patient had a very bad night, and the next day sickness recommenced. Another bad night, and another bad day, and the landlady gave us notice, telling me that she saw "Death" in my patient's face, and that "she wasn't going to have no funerals and no coffins in her house at the beginning of the season."

We called in a doctor, who ordered douches as well as a tonic. The douches she approved of, and said they gave her relief, but the tonic made her sick and she refused taking it. We then went into a surgical home, but she grew daily worse, her sickness increased till it became quite distressing, and the only thing she could retain was Koumiss. She then grew quite unmanageable, vicious and insulting in her manner to the matron, doctor, nurses, and myself. In fact, she got quite to hate me, and yet, strange to say, she would allow no one else to touch her or do anything for her. The craving for the morphia grew stronger and the doses had to be increased, and long before they were due she would start begging for them. At this stage the doctor said that I was not fit to go on with the case, and in a fatherly way packed me off—with a tonic. But after I left they refused to keep her at the Home, and she returned to London. Another consultation took place, when the cancer was discovered at the *fundus* of the uterus. She died of continued sickness, unable to take nourishment, and consequently exhaustion, ten days after I left her.

Medical Matters.

THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.



GERMAN surgeons are still engaged in active efforts to cure cancer by means of the injection of the bacilli of Erysipelas and other diseased conditions. It will be remembered that we have alluded to this treatment at some length, on previous occasions, and the most recent experiments have only further proved results to which we have previously called attention. In some few cases, the general health of the patient seems undoubtedly to improve under the treatment. Very occasionally, the growth of the tumour appears to be checked; in one or two instances it has been even thought that a distinct amelioration was gained. But, unfortunately, in no well marked case of cancer has a definite cure been proved. It would, therefore, almost seem to be unnecessary to subject patients to any further treatment in this direction; because, unhappily, the moral effect of failure, when hopes of success have been raised, is naturally very distressing, and often injurious to the patient's general health. In saying this, we are not oblivious of the fact that cases have been placed on record, by excellent surgeons, in which some benefit seems to have been obtained. But it is impossible not to realise that the burden of proof is now strongly against the probability of success. And the well known fact must be remembered, that whenever a new remedy is proposed for an incurable disease, there is always a certain amount of credulity and hopefulness enlisted upon its behalf; so that the so-called cures, which are at first ascribed to any new system; are easily explainable.

CURATIVE SERUM.

VERY extensive experiments have been made in Germany in the treatment of typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and pneumonia by the injection into such patients of serum drawn from other patients convalescing from the same diseases. The results which are recorded must certainly be regarded as an encouragement to a further trial of the treatment. In the cases of typhoid fever so

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