

cavity and permitting its contents to flow out, washing out the bladder and removing the stones, and taking special precautions to ascertain that none are imbedded in the passage to the bowel. Then the gall-bladder having been thoroughly cleansed is almost closed with sutures and stitched inside to the abdominal wall, a drainage tube being inserted into its cavity, and the abdominal wound being closed with stitches in the ordinary way. As a general rule, the opening in the bladder closes gradually, and when the drainage tube is removed heals completely, leaving no fistula or other bad effects. The nursing of these cases, which, of course, is most important, has to be carried out on the general principles upon which all abdominal operations are nursed, especially as regards complete abstinence from food for a number of hours, and absolute rest and great carefulness to avoid any movement on the part of the patient for several days.

DIPHTHERIA.

DURING the last few weeks, there has been a very marked increase in the epidemic of diphtheria, and still more in its fatality. How serious the latter fact is, can be judged from the figures officially published for the last three weeks of October; the fatal cases in London being respectively 45, 55, and 65 in number, and the latter exceeding the average number in the corresponding periods of the ten preceding years by no less than 17. The use of antitoxin has undoubtedly affected the mortality, both, in hospitals and in private practice, and, therefore, it is evident that the number of cases must be greatly on the increase. In fact, in the week ending October 23rd, 369 cases were notified, of which 149 only were admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals. A feature of the present epidemic which is attracting considerable attention is the rapidity with which the false membrane spreads over the palate and pharynx and the rapid failure of the patient's general strength. Still, there is little doubt that diphtheria itself is not so fatal a disease as it formerly was; and that it is more easily combated by treatment may be also considered proved by the fact that patients who die from heart failure during convalescence, which was formerly the most dreaded consequence of the disease, are now comparatively seldom met with.

The Better Organization of the Nursing Profession.

By MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Read by invitation at the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, at Croydon, Wednesday, October 27th, 1897.

(Continued from page 371.)

EXAMINATIONS.

The examination of probationers should include preliminary, intermediate, and final examinations.

The entrance or preliminary examination might be conducted by the Matron, or Principal, and her assistants, in domestic arts, practical nursing, and nursing ethics, and by the medical teachers upon elementary anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics, hygiene, and massage.

The intermediate examination might be passed at the end of eighteen months practical work in the wards, during which time efficient teaching should have been given by the ward Sisters. This examination also should be conducted by the Principal, and Medical Staff. As the duty of instructing probationers must form an important part of the work of the ward Sisters, the ability to impart knowledge—a totally distinct gift from the capacity for acquiring it—should be considered in the appointment of ward Sisters.

The third or final examination, the successful passing of which should entitle candidates to certificates of efficiency, should be conducted by a Central Board, appointed under an Act of Parliament, consisting of medical men, and the Principals of training schools. Only certificates granted under the authority of that Board should qualify for registration.

REGISTRATION.

Registration should be conducted by a body appointed by Act of Parliament to be called the General Nursing Council, and the names of Nurses so registered should be published annually with their addresses in the "Register of Trained Nurses," which would be on sale to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION.

A course of supplementary education should be arranged for Registered Nurses who had shown evidence of organizing ability during their training.

Somewhat on the following lines:—They should be placed in charge as night superintendents and sisters of wards, home sisters and house keepers, spend a certain time in the linenry, laundry, and Matron's office. A supplementary certificate, for not less than twelve months' work in such positions, might be awarded, signed by the Matron, to those nurses who proved themselves efficient in performing the duties of the various departments. This

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)