

Professional Review.

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NEW TREATMENT.

BICYCLING.

Under the heading of new treatment an article of considerable length upon "bicycling for women" appears. Its purport may be gathered from the opening sentence.

"The question when a woman may bicycle, and when she may not, is one often asked now-a-days. There is a further question, namely, when she *ought* to bicycle, for the wheel is now ranked among the therapeutic measures in gynaecology."

BLACKWATER FEVER.

The note upon Blackwater Fever, otherwise known as malarial hæmoglobinuric fever, shows how very little is known at present about this fatal disease. So far it is recognised as "an acute specific fever characterised by rapid jaundice, hæmoglobinuria, and frequently suppression of urine." There are three recognized types (a) the sthenic, (b) the insidious, (c) the pernicious, but whether the disease is malarial or specific in origin, whether the administration of quinine is beneficial or injurious, or may even be capable of causing the disease, are still points which are warmly debated, and if the commission appointed by the British Medical Association is able satisfactorily to solve these questions, it will make a very real contribution to Medical Science.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

With regard to Bubonic Plague, we notice that it is reported by Haffkine and Bannerman, that the mortality among those unprotected by the use of Haffkine's Plague Protected Serum, is greater by 86 per cent. than among the protected.

BURNS.

The article on the treatment of burns will repay study. Two principles are laid down by Dakyl. (1) The injured part should be left alone as long as it is dry, as every change of dressing injures the delicate epidermis, and (2) No burnt surface should be left soaking in its own discharge, especially if that discharge be purulent. In selecting a dressing, where the whole thickness of the skin is destroyed, the points to be considered are:—

1. The choice of a dressing requiring re-application as seldom as possible.
2. The choice of one easily moistened, and of which the foundation is not too woolly.
3. A dressing that shall be aseptic and if possible anti-septic.
4. One which shall exclude as much moisture as possible, and absorb any serous exudation which reaches the surface.
5. It must exclude air.
6. It should relieve pain.

Picric Acid, which has already been mentioned in this journal as beneficial in the treatment of burns, is spoken of as meeting all the above requirements when used in a saturated solution.

CANCER.

With regard to cancer nothing very new is recorded, and the scientific medical world is still working towards the discovery of the origin and the cure of this dread disease, a discovery which would bring relief to thousands of sufferers. The need of the discovery is the more urgent as the disease is undoubtedly largely on the increase.

EPIDEMIC CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The origin of epidemic cerebro-spinal fever, a peculiarly fatal disease, is still obscure.

DENGUE FEVER.

An epidemic of dengue fever, a disease unknown in this country, which occurred in Queensland last summer, is described. Not more than 10 to 30 per cent. of the population escaped the disease. The usual symptoms were severe frontal headache, backache, pains in the limbs, vomiting, a variable rash, a temperature for some days varying from 101 degs. to 105 degs., and severe general prostration. There was at first some doubt amongst medical men as to whether the epidemic was dengue, as in some cases the symptoms were those of measles, in others of scarlet fever, and again in others of influenza, but the doubt was soon dispelled.

In fatal cases, the cause of death is usually rapid heart failure, and collapse at the period of crisis. Dr. Hare reports: "These cases are amongst the most startling that occur in medical practice. It not unfrequently happens that the child has an appearance of well being, speaking with a loud, firm voice and exhibiting remarkable power and mental clearance, even when the surface of the body is cold, and the pulse has quite disappeared from the wrist." It is supposed that there is some analogy between dengue fever and malaria.

DIPHTHERIA.

The reports on the continued use of antitoxin in this disease are still favourable.

The following are Dr. Gordon Morrill's conclusions as to the immunity from diphtheria conferred by a single injection of antitoxin.

1. The immunity in any given case, of no matter how thorough exposure to diphtheria, may be conferred for at least ten days by the injection of a small dose (100 to 250 units) of serum, provided it is given twenty-four hours previous to actual infection.
2. That a larger doze (250 units for a child of two years, up to 500 units for one of eight years or over) will confer safety for twenty days under similar conditions.
3. That no harm will result from the treatment in a vast majority of cases of sick children, and probably in no case of a healthy child, provided the serum used is up to the present standard of purity.

ECZEMA.

The nature of eczema is held to be inflammatory, and an irritable nervous system to be a strong predisposing cause. Hutchinson says that "it is only exceptionally that the cause of eczema is a single one. In most cases hereditary tendency, constitutional proclivity, the state of the blood, and local irritation of the skin itself are elements which all enter into partnership in the production of eczematous inflammation."

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