

MODERN SURGERY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—I have not seen any notice as yet in your columns of the great advance lately made in surgery, and due to the persevering efforts of an eminent London surgeon, *i.e.*, the production of local anæsthesia so complete as to obviate any necessity for the use of chloroform or ether in many even of the most serious and painful operations. This happy result is obtained by the injection of Eucain B, and the success of the drug has been so far complete that operations for thyroid tumour, varicose veins, radical cure, strangulated hernia, aneurism, appendectomy, gastrotomy, and gastro-enterostomy, have all been performed under its influence with good results. No serious bone operation has, as yet, been attempted in this way, I believe, owing to the difficulty in the way of injecting an anæsthetic in such a case.

Patients to be operated upon under the influence of Eucain B. are exempt from the preliminary fast usual before the administration of ether or chloroform, and are allowed their ordinary dinner at about twelve if they are to be operated upon at two p.m. During the operation the patient's thoughts are usually diverted by conversation and the enjoyment of a cup of tea! The loss of sensation appears to be so complete that as the patient's view is obstructed he is almost entirely unconscious of what is taking place, and certainly suffers no intense pain. It has even happened that he has conversed cheerfully with the surgeon in apparent ignorance that the hand of the latter was busy in the abdomen.

No starvation is necessary after the operation, and the patient has his next meal as usual. He is quite exempt from the nausea and vomiting which so frequently follow the use of other anæsthetics, and there is an absence of the usual prostration after operation. The patient is able to enjoy his newspaper the same evening, and entire recovery follows more speedily than has been common previously. It is not to be wondered at that patients who have been operated upon in this way and need a second operation ask to be allowed to have it under the influence of Eucain B.

I am,
Dear Editor,
Yours cordially,
UP TO DATE.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The letter from "E. Maguire," in last week's issue, may appear superfluous to many of your readers, but from personal experience, I can sympathise with her. I, most unfortunately, happen to have the same name as a nurse who has come into collision in the Law Courts with a medical man, and it has caused me much suffering and unhappiness, and I have lost many cases through it; one medical man going so far as to say to our Superintendent, "Well, I don't care whether she's the same woman or not, I won't employ anyone of the name!"

I am,
Dear Madam,
Yours truly,
"AN ADVOCATE OF REGISTRATION."

THE MALARIAL MOSQUITO.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to the very interesting articles which have recently appeared in the **NURSING RECORD** with regard to the malarial mosquito, I should like to ask, how those who hold what I may call the "mosquito theory" account for the presence of severe forms of malaria in districts which, if not absolutely free from mosquitoes, are yet so little troubled by them that Europeans are able to sleep at night with impunity without mosquito nets? Though the mosquito may be, and doubtless is, one cause of malaria, I must own to some scepticism as to the extirpation of malaria occurring simultaneously with that of the mosquito. Its extirpation also is a difficult question. In some tropical countries, at least, it seems as if the control of the air one breathes would be as easy as that of the mosquito, it makes its appearance in such myriads. The only effective way of dealing with it appears to be to drain the swamps which it inhabits, and then surely the improved sanitary conditions which would, by the result, account for the diminution in the malarial rate, would doubtless follow. Also, if the mosquito is the sole cause of malaria, why is it almost invariably the case that an outbreak of malaria follows any disturbance of the soil, as, for instance, in the case of building operations? I wonder if the possibility of malaria being conveyed by means of flies, has been considered. We know the part they played in spreading the infection of enteric fever in the Hispano-American war has been proved, and considering how they are to be found swarming on every kind of decaying and putrid matter, as well as on the food which one eats in tropical countries, it is reasonable to suppose that it is possible they may take their part in propagating malaria. It is also a matter of some curiosity to me to know whether the anatomy of the common flea has ever been investigated as closely as that of the mosquito by the scientific explorers in search of the malarial germ. It seems at least likely that here again is a possible source of infection.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED FROM THE GERM.

NURSING IN THE TRANSVAAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As an old Army Nursing Sister I was very glad to see that the War Office have acted upon the suggestions proposed by you in the **RECORD** and elsewhere of having staff nurses, as well as Sisters, in the arrangements made for the care of our sick soldiers in South Africa, and that the Regular Army Sisters are taking rightful precedence of the Reserve, as they are to be in charge of Sections, and the Reserve Nurses to work under the Sisters' direction. I gather from the report at the Congress that you initiated this plan in the nursing of the wounded Greeks, and found it to answer well. From experience I am sure it is the only system by which in the future our soldiers can hope to receive effective nursing. Have any English women offered their services to the Boers? Surely the Red Cross Society is an International Society—and it is bound to nurse the wounded irrespective of nationality. If we do not offer help no doubt the Red Cross Societies of other nations will.

I am, yours sincerely,
"RETIRED."

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