

first division, proper dieting and the avoidance of intestinal irritation leading to abdominal distension and consequent increased intra-abdominal tension. One speaker did not agree with the performance of circumcision as a curative measure, and believed that the straining, consequent on crying when the wound is dressed, may in itself precipitate a hernia. Muscular exercises are useful, as they strengthen the abdominal walls. Secondly, treatment by trusses. The skeinwool truss was condemned as unsatisfactory and often dirty; the continued use of a truss was advised as a curative measure, recommending it, if it be commenced at the age of 1, to be used for three years continuously, if not worn till the age of 3 or 4, to be worn for 6 years, and if not worn till the age of 7 it must be worn till puberty. With regard to operation, it was considered not often necessary, and that the tissues affected are not favourable for effective suturing in early life, so that no operation should be suggested except under pressing conditions prior to 5 or 6 years of age. The operative cure should be undertaken, in all cases of irreducible omentum with or without fluid in the sac; in congenital hydrocele; in operations for the relief of strangulated hernia; in all cases of fluid in the hernial sac; where the hernia cannot be replaced by mechanical appliances; where treatment is impossible owing to incompetence of the mother; and where a truss has been worn for 3 or 4 years without benefit.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE EAR.

In the *Medical Record*, Hummel makes the following deductions upon this subject:—(1) The relation of the normal meatus to inanimate foreign bodies is entirely without reaction: *i.e.*, a foreign body in the ear does not, *per se*, endanger the integrity of the ear. (2) Hasty attempts at removal are not only unnecessary, but often injurious. (3) In all cases not previously interfered with (with few exceptions), foreign substances can be removed from the ear by syringing. (4) Unskilled persons should never employ anything but the syringe in endeavouring to remove foreign bodies from the external meatus. (5) Instrumental removal should be effected only by one fully able to examine the ear with a speculum and acquainted with every operative manipulation in this region.

Army Nursing Notes.

THE news of the War which filters through to this country is very meagre. A strict censorship at the Cape and at Aden plays havoc with the telegrams sent at great cost by the war correspondents at the front. It would, of course, be in the highest degree inexpedient to publish any news which might be serviceable to the enemy, but it must be remembered that even editors and war correspondents are Englishmen first and journalists afterwards, and would not be likely to publish anything which might prejudicially affect British interests in South Africa.

On the whole, the dispatches give good news of the wounded. The hospital ships *Spartan* and *Trojan* are busy plying between Durban and the Cape. The transport *Sumatra* brought down a batch of invalids from Durban, and these men are comfortably placed in a base hospital at Wynberg, Cape Colony, many luxuries having been provided for the sick by the generous residents of Cape Town.

Sister C. M. Chadwick, of the Army Nursing Service, is to be in charge of the nursing on the *Princess of Wales*, and Sister Annie Spooner, Sister of the Royal Free Hospital, and Sisters A. Brebner and H. Hogarth, private nurses at Princess Christian's Nursing Home at Windsor, of the Reserve, will serve under her and leave England about the 22nd inst.

The Red Cross Society has accepted the Duke of Newcastle's offer to set up the *Princess of Wales* hospital ship with complete Rontgen-ray and photographic apparatus, an invaluable gift. Sir Peter and Lady Walker and an anonymous donor have also offered to do likewise for other hospital ships.

Mr. "Freddy" Treves had an enthusiastic "send off" on Saturday, when he left for the Cape, "London" students and nurses joining in hearty cheers.

Mr. Treves had paid a high compliment to trained nursing, and acknowledges its value to surgery by taking with him to the seat of war Miss Alice Tarr, and Miss Ethel McCaul; the former lady trained at the London Hospital, and has been his right hand in his operating practice for some years past, and Mr. Treves shows his sense in insisting upon taking with him to South

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