

The Nursing of Children's Diseases.

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LECTURE IX.

DISEASES OF THE LIVER.

Cirrhosis of the Liver, that is an increase of fibrous tissue in the liver, may be due even in children now and then to the giving of alcohol, and sometimes no doubt to congenital syphilis, occasionally to the irritation of tubercle. The symptoms resemble those of the adult; there is dyspepsia, with furred tongue and vomiting; occasionally epistaxis; slight jaundice and anæmia; wasting follows, and later a swelling of the abdomen due to the presence of fluid (ascites). The temperature is often slightly raised. The treatment is only palliative. The bowels will be acted upon in order if possible to drain off some of the fluid; but the only effectual way to remove this is by tapping the abdomen. This is either done by the ordinary trochar and cannula, or by Southey's trochar. The latter is of very small calibre, and the cannula is connected with a small tube, whose end is carried below the bed into a vessel containing a little carbolic lotion, into which the end of the tube dips. It may be the duty of the nurse to see that these instruments are thoroughly sterilized by boiling before use; and also to thoroughly cleanse the skin of the abdomen with soap and water and afterwards apply carbolic lotion. After tapping, it is a frequent custom to bandage the abdomen tightly with a many-tailed flannel bandage, in order to prevent a too sudden change of tension in the abdomen due to the removal of the fluid and also to prevent re-accumulation of the fluid.

Lithæmia. This is the name given to a condition associated with the appearance in the urine of a red sediment, on standing, looking like red pepper or of a pink sediment of urate of soda making the urine thick and cloudy. It is not uncommon in children of three or four years of age, and is said to be more frequent in the children of gouty patients. It is uncommon in the urine of quite young children, and may cause in them a soreness and redness round the orifice of the urethra. The child who passes this excess of uric acid in the urine is often fretful; it may seem pretty well,

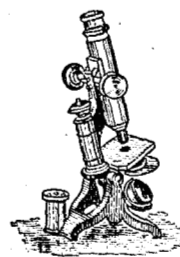
but may occasionally utter a sudden cry, quickly recovering itself and resuming play. There is often frequency of passing water, and this may lead to the child wetting its bed at night, or its clothes by day. In most cases the bowels are constipated or irregular.

The treatment for this condition is to avoid an excess of butcher's meat, and avoid altogether beef-tea or meat extracts; the diet should consist chiefly of eggs, milk, bread and milk, or milk-puddings, a little fish, etc. Green vegetables are of great value and should be given at least once a day. The bowels should be freely opened by a saline purge as Carlsbad Salts or Friedrichshall water; and a physician will probably order some medicine with a view of rendering the urine less acid, such as effervescing citrate of magnesia, etc. It is very important that the child should be encouraged to drink water or lemonade in large quantities, in order to flush out the kidneys, and keep the uric acid in solution, as a condition of this kind is apt to lead to stone in the kidney or bladder, which is of course a serious condition

(To be continued.)

Medical Matters.

THE DISPOSAL OF WOUNDED IN NAVAL ACTIONS.



An interesting paper on the Disposal of Wounded in Naval Actions was read, in the Navy, Army, and Ambulance Section, before the British Medical Association at Cheltenham, by Fleet-Surgeon Kirker, R.N., who discussed his subject under three heads. (1) The surgeon's station or the place where the wounded were treated; (2) the time of treatment; (3) the conveyance of the wounded.

THE SURGEON'S STATION.

It had always been the custom to select some well-protected and easily accessible part of the ship for the reception and treatment of the wounded, and to convert it before action into a surgical station. In the old wooden battleship the "cockpit" or after-part of the orlop deck—a place below the water-line and approached by a wide hatchway—was universally selected as the surgeon's station; but when the iron battleship displaced the wooden one, the orlop deck

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