

General Hospital, the result of an appeal by — (a titled lady, whose name, as well as the number of the hospital, we omit). We are liberally paid by the Government while on active service, and if we want additions to our wardrobes we are perfectly able to provide them for ourselves, the means of transport being as available to us as to the charitably disposed public. We think that before such an 'appeal' was made on our behalf its authors should have inquired whether we were really fit objects for charity, and we hope your kindness in inserting this letter may save us from being the unwilling recipients of the proceeds of *cafés chantants*, bazaars, &c., got up by charitable ladies to relieve the supposed necessitous condition of the sisters of the Army Nursing Service and the Army Nursing Service Reserve."

We look forward to the time when the Army Nursing Service will be placed on a thoroughly professional basis, when Nursing is recognised, as no doubt it will soon be, at the War Office, as a section of the nation's army. Nurses of all ranks have been exploited, patronised, and befooled quite long enough. We want, in short, no more "Ole Clo."

#### WOMEN HEALTH VISITORS.

In his quarterly report on the health of Birmingham the medical officer (Dr. Alfred Hill) specially refers to the duties performed by the women health visitors. They paid 6,150 primary visits and 2,519 re-visits. In 2,130 of the houses visited there was sickness of a more or less severe character. The main object of the visitors is to get the tenants to make the best of their surroundings, and the following statement denotes the principal points to which they called attention:—Houses to be cleansed, 1,347; slops to be emptied, 1,339; windows to be opened, 1,627; chimneys to be unstopped, 576; bedding to be cleansed, 236; rubbish to be burned, 116; additional bedroom to be used, 122; screen to be made in bedroom, 57; larger houses to be obtained, 59; additional beds or bedding to be bought, 27; lodgers to be got rid of, 11; children to be washed, 224; infants to be suitably fed, 63; children to be sent to school, 11; doctor to be consulted, 220; yards, drains, etc., to be cleansed, 89. The health visitors reported 1,382 houses and yards as requiring certain repairs for which the landlord is held responsible, and this information was forwarded to the inspector of nuisances.

## The Nursing of Children's Diseases.

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### LECTURE VIII.

Chorea, or St. Vitus's Dance, is another rheumatic symptom. Many cases have joint pains at the same time, or rheumatism may either precede or follow the chorea.

Heart disease is another symptom of rheumatism; very often the rheumatic pains may have been very slight, so that no history is to be obtained, or the heart disease may be the only symptom present.

Skin eruptions are very frequent rheumatic symptoms; the usual kinds are (1) erythema, which consists of patches of redness of various sizes and shapes, and very apt to disappear in a few hours; (2) erythema nodosum, consisting of raised tender nodules about the size of a sixpence or a shilling, most marked on the front of the leg, but also seen on the backs of the forearms. They are at first pink, then purple, and finally fade like a bruise; (3) purpura, which are purple stains occurring chiefly on the limbs and often round the affected joints; (4) urticaria, or nettle-rash, which comes out as white wheals, later on becoming red; they are fugitive and itch intensely. In children frequently small hard nodules develop under the skin, especially over tendons or bones, as on the backs of the hands, wrists, knees, and elbows. These are evidence of a serious rheumatic illness in which the heart is not likely to escape. Sometimes pleurisy may be the only symptom of rheumatism.

The treatment of rheumatism in childhood is the same as for adults; on the least suspicion of any joint affection or other rheumatic sign, the child should be put to bed between blankets and in flannel night-clothes, and restricted to a milk diet, with, perhaps, bread and butter, and biscuits, etc. The painful parts may be swathed in cotton-wool. The rest in bed is one of the most important points in the treatment, and it is comparatively a small matter if we are overcautious in this respect, in keeping a child in bed who has only slight or no pain, and appears to the friends to ail little; whereas it is a very grave matter to allow a child who may be

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