

In continuous pyrexia the temperature never drops to normal, and the morning and evening temperature, do not vary more than a degree and a half.

In remittent pyrexia we never get a normal temperature, but the morning and evening variations are much greater than those of the first type, sometimes as much as two or three degrees. In intermittent pyrexia the morning temperature is normal or below, whilst in the evening it may run several degrees higher.

DEFERESCENCE.

Temperatures run a fairly well-defined course in the majority of fevers without complications, and the nurse should know what to expect and what to especially report to the physician.

Pneumonia, for instance, usually begins with a rigor and a very high temperature (103° or 104°), which varies very little until about the eighth day, when it may suddenly drop to normal in a few hours; such a termination of pyrexia is known as a "crisis," and in favourable cases the temperature will not perhaps rise again much above normal. In measles the same thing may occur on or about the sixth day.

When, during a high fever, instead of this sudden fall, the thermometer shows a gradually decreasing temperature, taking perhaps a week to reach the normal level, the fever is said to terminate by "lysis"; this is seen in many diseases, notably scarlet fever.

It is termed "remittent lysis" when, although each evening temperature is lower than that of the evening before, it is higher than the morning one that intervenes. This is specially seen in the deferescence of enteric fever.

When, at the termination of pyrexia, the temperature falls it may remain sub-normal for a few days, but during convalescence it is very subject to fluctuations; much more so than in health. This is frequently the case in nervous persons whose temperatures show a difference for slight constitutional disturbances.

Constipation will occasionally cause a temperature to rise; district nurses are sometimes badly scared by this, fearing sepsis in lying-in cases.

Diarrhoea, on the other hand, lowers temperature and so does hæmorrhage, although there is generally some reaction after the latter and a rise of temperature.

Shock also causes a temperature to fall, and vomiting, if long continued, may even produce collapse.

Habitual drinkers have a comparatively low temperature, but in *delirium tremens* we very frequently see the reverse.

Army Nursing Notes.

Miss Sidney Browne, Matron in Chief of the Army Nursing Service, has been provided with an office at the Horse Guards, Whitehall, which will be an immense boon to nursing sisters, and also to hard-worked journalists compelled to inquire into military nursing matters.

We are reminded in this connection of our last tussle with the War Office, in attempting to extract official information in reference to the sisters' War Medals. We called in Pall Mall, were most courteously received, passed on to the Army Medical Department in Victoria Street. Again, after mounting three storeys of stone steps, we were most courteously received and referred back to Pall Mall. We trotted back to Pall Mall, and we passed from department to department by letters and numbers innumerable, only to be told at the top of more stairs that we must apply to the Army Medical Department. This we firmly refused to do, two hours already having been wasted over this inquiry, and insisted that we should see *somebody* who knew *something*. At last, after most serious consultations between amiable but bewildered officials, we climbed more stairs, waited like patience on a monument, seated on a door-keeper's stool in the passage, and after a restful period were ushered into the presence of two youthful potentates, who informed us that the list of names had been sent for the King's use to Marlborough House, and that it had not yet been returned.

"But the official duplicate," we ventured to remark. "May I not have a copy of that!"

"Er, oh! I fear not—er—in fact *there is no duplicate*. There was one copy (in long hand, no doubt, we mentally snapped); it was sent to Marlborough House; when it is returned a copy shall be sent to you."

With this assurance we were compelled to be content, and wended our homeward way after three hours' worry, a wiser if a sadder woman on matters of State, and wondering "if seven maids with seven mops," &c.

Some ten days later, a fortnight after the event, we were able to inform our readers of the names of their colleagues who had been honoured by King and country as recipients of the African War Medals! Now that we have a Nursing Department "all on its own," we shall look forward to tasty tit-bits of information, exquisitely typed, or, better still, telephoned through with commendable despatch to the press!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)