

do. I said nothing, but I reported the fact to the doctor, and he went in to speak to the patient. The doctor soon returned to my room, sat in a chair and laughed. "Well," I said, "if we lose our first laparotomy you share the disgrace with me." "The man is not going to die," he said; and he didn't. I sent a man-servant to sleep in his room that night, in case anything should happen, and he said the man smoked the whole night. In a few days he discharged himself.

We also had an interesting cure of lupus on the lips and nose, by the simple use of the sun and a glass lens. We covered the patient's face, exposed the diseased part, and the nurse held the lens, moving it about for ten to fifteen minutes daily. During the rest of the time he was frequently irrigated and dressed with boric ointment. We had nearly 300 eye operations the first year, trachoma and trichiasis being the most frequent.

A long case of typhoid ended sadly with death from thrombosis, with gangrene, which set in from the toes to the thigh. She was too weak, and her blood was considered in too hopeless a condition to allow of an amputation, even in the first stages of gangrene. It was a very hard, slow death. She was very popular with the patients and nurses, and was nursed by them with the utmost devotion and patience. When she died we called the ward by her name, "Helen's Ward." She was a servant, aged twenty-two.

The one idea of a Syrian patient seems to be how he can break hospital rules. He does not claim his rights, like the British one; he is not aggressive or unmanageable; on the contrary, he is amiable, amenable, and apparently grateful; but if by cunning or craft he can evade the rules he will do so, more as a sort of mental fencing than anything else. He will smoke hourly under the bedclothes; he will give some of his food (from sheer amiability) to a fellow-patient, even if knows he is put on liquid diet and is in a critical condition, and then swear by the saint of the ward, under whose image his very bed lies, that he is innocent of the deed, with every evidence of his guilt facing him!

They are also very nervous about operations, even the simplest ones, and sometimes they discharge themselves at the last moment. But sometimes we had wonderful exceptions of fortitude and courage.

*(To be continued.)*

Thirty-one members of the nursing staff at the workhouse infirmary, Shirley Warren, Southampton, have written to the Board of Guardians protesting against a resolution of the Board which forbids the Matron and Medical Superintendent to grant testimonials and references. This, the nurses say, will be detrimental to their future career, for without such testimonials no member of the institution can obtain a post of responsibility.

The Chairman thought the fears of the nurses were groundless, as they would be furnished with printed documents signed by the Medical Superintendent and Matron and approved by the Board.

A nurse who has satisfactorily passed through her training should, of course, receive a certificate. But the wording of a printed certificate is in general terms, and cannot testify to her suitability for a given post. Thus of two equally good certificated nurses one may be more suited for Army nursing, and the other for district work. On such details a Matron's written opinion is of first moment.

## Professional Review.

### LECTURES ON MASSAGE AND ELECTRICITY.

We have received a copy of "Lectures on Massage and Electricity," by Dr. Stretch Dowse, published by Messrs. J. Wright and Co., Bristol, price 7s. 6d. net. The author, in his preface, says:—

"It is interesting, and—to my practical, unconventional, and utilitarian mind—satisfactory, to find that the profession in this country is gradually, but surely, giving greater attention to the treatment of disease by physical methods, especially chronic disease. In so doing they are merely following lines of practice which are so largely adopted, and with such good effects, by medical men upon the Continent. The thousands of invalids who congregate yearly in increasing numbers at the health resorts of Europe could unquestionably be treated just as well in this country in a precisely similar manner, and with greater comfort and better hygiene. Doubtless the change experienced in Continental travel and environment has a beneficial influence, and the thoroughness of the administration and organisation to be found at the well-known spas of Europe is unquestionably superior to anything of the kind we have at home.

With regard to massage, I am still of opinion that it is an important physical aid in the treatment of diseased states. . . . That it is readily adopted by some and abused by others (where intuition is narrow and of an inferior order) can be well understood from more than one point of view; it was the case with the introduction of modern nursing, with ovariectomy, and with Listerism. Such abuse has always been showered upon innovations and innovators in medicine; but, in spite of detraction, I am convinced that both massage and electricity will live and flourish and take their proper and justifiable position in the treatment of disease."

The book deals with the physical and physiological effects of massage. In this connection the author says:—"If any excuse be needed to warrant and to justify my warmly advocating my system of massage, it is to be found in the simple fact that my experience has proved it to be an agent of great regenerative power, an agent whose beneficial influence has not yet been duly appreciated, and an agent whose curative powers are most marked in those cases where other agents have signally failed to bring about a cure. The secret of success of any remedial agent depends entirely and absolutely upon the knowledge we possess of its definite and precise range of action under varying and variable conditions. Nothing but the most careful study of details can ever lead us to a successful issue."

He then describes in detail the method of application of massage, and the clearness of this lecture is increased by numerous illustrations. Dealing with the individuality of the masseur and masseuse, Dr. Stretch Dowse says:—"I must say that some individuals are utterly unfitted for the office, by nature, by education, by general development, and by disposition. I have no wish, in fact I will not try, to lay down a hard-and-fast line concerning physical development to the entire exclusion of a large number of persons who fail to come up to the exact standard, for it must be remembered that our patients to be massaged are not all of the same type, either mentally, morally, or physically. Young children, for

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