

the burn is healing convulsions from this source may cause death.

Intra-cranial hæmorrhage may follow over-heating and extensive burning. A child had shown no signs of cerebral trouble until the buttocks and back were burned by a large hot-water bag. The fontanelle began to bulge some thirty-six hours after the burn. A danger most likely to happen when glass bottles are used about the neck is heating of the blood in the carotid arteries. If the temperature of the internal carotids is raised and maintained by heat, these vessels having no branches in the neck, the heated blood is conveyed to the brain, and the effect on the medulla and respiratory centre is direct and marked, particularly when heat is applied at the back of the neck at the same time.

A perfectly healthy new-born child was placed in his crib, a hot-water bag underneath him, and a bottle filled with hot water each side of his neck. This was the nurse's precaution as the room was not very warm. She knew how efficient an ice-bag was when applied to the vessels of the neck, and she supposed heat could be utilised in the same manner with good effect. At the end of about a half-hour, on uncovering the child, I was surprised to find it breathing in a most peculiar manner, similar to the Cheyne-Stokes respiration. This soon ceased after picking up the infant, but a few days later I saw the same sort of dyspnoea in an older child; only here it followed a long-continued poulticing of the neck. The rectal temperature was 104.2 deg. The poultices were discontinued, and all bad symptoms had disappeared at the time of my second visit—i.e., about two hours after the removal of the poultices.

One reason that such occurrences are not found frequently is that the rubber hot-bag does not readily fit into the neck, but bottles will roll, and will stay snugly against the skin over the vessels of the neck. In my case, as the bottles formed an arch, their tops being in contact, any question of antero-posterior pressure may be dismissed. As to the temperature, I should say that any degree or amount of contact heat sufficient to keep the temperature in the carotids at 110° or over will certainly produce the disturbances described in about thirty minutes. There should always be a thick folded blanket above every hot-bag (not necessarily hot-water bag, for the materials may be shot, sand, towels, &c.), and, for that matter, a thick folded towel under every ice-bag.

The *Medical Record*, quoting from a German exchange, says:—"G. the Healthy Holzknacht and R. Grünfeld have devised a protective covering for the Skin during the Application of the Röntgen Rays. It consists of a sheet of tin which is covered on both sides with a thin layer of hard rubber. The plate thus made may be of any size and shape desired and perforated by as many apertures as wished. It is very flexible and may be easily adapted to the various curvatures, &c., of the body. It is light and easy to handle, and may be sterilised, washed, or heated without damage. Its extended use shows that it affords a complete protection to the healthy skin from the burning and other annoyances which frequently attend the use of the application of the Röntgen rays."

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



We are glad to hear that many private nurses working on the Co-operations in the West End of London are beginning to realise the charm and benefit to be derived from "Leagues," and before long it is probable that forceful associations will be formed amongst them for mutual help and pleasure. Private nurses need the stimulus of co-operation for professional and social purposes more than any other class of nurse, otherwise they are apt to become lonely and self-concentrated and out of touch with the general interest of their colleagues.

The lady guardians at the Parish Infirmary, Portsmouth, are to be congratulated on organising a circulating library for the use of the patients. Time is apt to hang heavily with invalids, debarred from their ordinary occupations, unless some recreation is provided for them, and the gifts of books, which have been received from friends in response to an appeal, should be very welcome, especially now the long winter evenings are upon us. A librarian has been found on the premises, so the cost of the library is *nil*.

At the annual meeting of the Governors of the Ipswich Nurses' Home the Report stated that, in addition to the nursing staff, there was a staff of cottage helps, consisting of eight trained women and thirteen partly-trained, who were much in demand among those who could not afford to pay for a fully-trained nurse; 179 cases had been attended by them during the year. The Chairman, Archdeacon Lawrence, described these cottage helps as experienced and trustworthy persons who visit the cottages of the working classes and remain there by the week, and for a small sum attend the sick. The lowest charge made for a cottage help was 7s., and the sum went up to 12s. and 15s. The cottage helps were very much sought after.

We have always held that the "cottage help" would be a useful and appreciated person in the homes of the poor, provided she does not assume responsibilities for which she is not qualified. The care of the sick poor can be adequately arranged for by the employment of trained nurses and cottage

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