

patient being treated with antitoxin in order to hasten his recovery, and so lessen the chance he has of spreading the infection. He should, of course, be well supplied with antiseptic throat washes in addition to such other treatment as may be needed. Further, the patient should not be allowed to mingle with other people until three successive negative swabs have been obtained from his throat at some days' interval. For one negative is not a sufficient guarantee of the disappearance of the diphtheria bacilli, as this temporary disappearance may be due to one of several factors. These factors, accounting for a temporary negative break in a long line of positive swabs, are:—

- (1) Improper technique in taking the swab.
- (2) Improper technique in culturing from the swab.
- (3) Overlooking diphtheria bacilli when few are present, and these much contaminated.
- (4) Overlooking the bacilli when the growth of these has been inhibited by an antiseptic gargle indulged in a short time before the collection of the swab.
- (5) Temporary disappearance of the bacilli.

If this last factor holds, the reappearance of the bacilli may be attributed to placing several convalescents in the same room, some of whom, being free from the diphtheria bacillus, are reinfected by those who still show the micro-organism in their throats. Hence another precaution may be taken, when possible, with a view to hastening the convalescence, *i.e.*, that each patient should be isolated from other patients during this period. A better explanation of this temporary disappearance from the throat rests on the fact that the bacilli persist in the posterior nares after the throat is free, and thence may reinfest this part.

During an epidemic, attention must be given to checking spread by the indirect corporeal means. It has been suggested that all who show the presence of the Klebs-Löffler bacillus in their throats should undergo strict isolation even though they be in perfect health. This seems to be rather hard when we remember that the diphtheria bacillus may be found in the throat for as long as three months or more without giving rise to any symptoms. Consequently, we have to try and improvise other means, though perhaps less effective, to control the spread of the disease by these people.

(To be continued.)

The Nurses' Registration Bill.

The Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in manuscript form, and tied up with pretty green ribbons, found its way to the House of Commons on Wednesday last. As we go to press, Dr. Farquharson, M.P., who has kindly consented to introduce the Bill, is submitting its fate to the uncertain chances of the Ballot.

Our Guinea Prize.

We have pleasure in announcing that Miss H. Settle, Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W., has won our Guinea Prize for January.

KEY TO PUZZLES.

- No. 1. Chorlton's Bedsteads.
C haul Tea on S bedstead S.
- No. 2. "Panutrine."
Pea a nut R IN E.
- No. 3. The London Shoe Company.
"The London" Shoe com(b) pan Y.
- No. 4. Ridge's Food.
Ridge S food.

The following competitors have also answered the puzzles correctly:—

Miss Rouse, Matron, Beacon Hill Hospital, Faversham.

Miss C. McNair, Queen Street, Edinburgh.
Miss Garwood, Throat Hospital, Golden Square, W.
Miss Mena Beilby, Walden Cottage, Cranford.
Miss M. Cooke, Isolation Hospital, East Malling.
Miss F. Beard, Coburg Road, Bristol.
Miss B. J. Burrow, Batch Wood, St. Albans.
Miss K. A. Hardy, Miners' Hospital, Marske-on-Sea.
Miss E. A. Martin, St. George's Street, Cork.
Nurse Eliza, North Ormesby Hospital, Middlesbro'.
Miss G. McPhail, Parkfield Street, Manchester.
Miss A. Pettit, Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill.
Miss Sills, Casthorpe, Grantham.
Miss J. Fraser, Craigmaddie Terrace, Glasgow.
Miss C. McIntyre, Cathcart Street, Greenock.
Miss R. G. Kelly, Gt. James Street, Londonderry.
Miss E. M. Lloyd, Nurses' Home, Witham.
Miss E. F. P. Fowler, Haldon Road, Handsworth.
Miss C. Allee, Alma Road, Southampton.
Miss I. Sherlock, Tousley Road, Wandsworth.
Miss Eckersley, North Ormesby Hospital, Middlesbro'.
Miss M. H. Sherlock, The Infirmary, Leicester.
Miss F. Sheppard, Kent Nursing Inst., Tunbridge Wells.
Miss M. Aldrich, Ruthin, North Wales.
Miss A. E. Rossiter, Kent Nursing Inst., Tunbridge Wells.

Miss A. Riley, N.E. Hospital, Tottenham.
Miss I. MacNay, N.E. Hospital, Tottenham.
Miss E. F. Dwight, Bagthorpe Inf., Nottingham.
Miss A. Sawyer, The Infirmary, Leicester.
Miss Dingle, Tallerman Institute, Poole.
Miss Laurence, Kensington Infirmary, W.
Miss E. L. Hindley, Cornelia Hospital, Poole.
Miss L. Attree, Richmond Terrace, Brighton.
Miss S. G. Brown, Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottingham.
Miss E. Topham, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield.
Miss S. Leigh, Gay Street, Bath.
Miss G. Selwyn, Douglas, Isle of Man.
Miss K. Cullen, Strabane, co. Tyrone.
Miss E. G. Burnside, George Street, Edinburgh.
Miss F. Gregory, Town Hospital, Aldershot.

Three competitors have succeeded in solving three out of four puzzles correctly.

The new set of prize puzzles will be found on page viii.

The rules remain the same.

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