

Practical Points.

In *The American Journal of Nursing* Miss L. L. Dock writes:—
Care of Babies with Hernia.

"Two quite opposite methods for the care of babies or very young patients after operation for hernia, noticed in English hospitals, are suggestive. The London Hospital uses the following plan:—The little patient, dressed in woollen shirt and stockings, is held in position by a binder skilfully placed under the arms and attached to the sides of the crib, and by soft flannel bandages which hold the feet and are fastened at the crib's foot. No splints are used, but a sandbag at each side, covered with flannel and then encased in a pretty little linen slip, supports the position. The wound has been dressed quite thickly with gauze, neatly covered in with rubber tissue, or, rather, a somewhat more durable tissue than the ordinary. The penis is then snugly encased in a wrapping of oiled silk, which forms a tube sufficiently long to enter a glass urinal, and this remains continually in position. The child is thus preserved from the possibility of wetting the dressing.

"The Royal Hospital for Children in Edinburgh uses another method. Here the children are also dressed in warm little shirt and stockings, but are held in position by double side-splints with cross-piece at the foot. The wound is left entirely without dressings. Simply the sutures are protected by a thick sprinkling of boric acid powder, or whatever other powder the surgeon may use. The penis is left uncovered except for a sterilised soft towel. A cradle of proper size is lined with sterilised towelling and supports the bedclothes. The results are excellent."

An Aid to the Comfort of Bedridden Patients.

American Medicine says that in cases of severe heart disease with orthopnea, it is often extremely difficult to keep the patient in the semi-upright position, as the direct pressure on the tuberosities of the ischium is not only uncomfortable, but is conducive to bedsores, and there is also a tendency to slip down in the bed. In such cases a hard bolster is placed under the mattress at the level of the thighs, forming with the pillows a double inclined plane, in the trough of which the back rests. The support and the removal of a part of the weight from the tuberischii to the fleshy part of the thighs affords great relief to the patient.

Snake-bite Cure.

All our readers, says *Indian Public Opinion*, have no doubt been aware of the valuable experiments which have been made by Sir Lauder Brunton and continued by Captain Rogers, I.M.S., regarding the efficacy of potassium permanganate in cases of snake bite. Anyone in India may at certain places be exposed to an attack by a deadly snake bite, and so it is with pleasure we have to draw attention to a small snake-bite lancet, devised by Captain Rogers, I.M.S., and put up in a small wooden tube with sufficient crystals of potassium permanganate for an emergency, which has been brought out by the well-known firm of Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet & Co. The little tube is only 2 in. long and the cost is purely nominal. We therefore think that all tea-garden

managers and zemindars should certainly never be without these tubes, and so either produce immunity against snake bite, or be able to combat the effects when such occur. Needless to say its cheapness and utility should recommend itself to all medical officers and to all those who are in any way concerned with a large staff or a number of children, as on tea estates, in schools and missions. We should hear less of the ryot dying from snake bite with a useful antidote in the district. We would suggest that the end of the tube containing the crystals be painted blue or steeped in a dye, to indicate which end the crystals are, and so save unnecessary loss when opened in a hurry or even casually.

The Control of Gauze Pads.

Dr. Rossell (*Zentralb. f. Gyn.*, No. 25, 1904) describes a method employed for the last ten years by his chief, Dr. Bircher, Director of the Cantonal Hospital, Aarau. Every compress introduced into the abdomen is weighted; a weight of about two scruples is fastened to the corner of each pad by a linen cord some 7 in. long, and when the pads are introduced the weights hang down on either side of the abdomen.

Safe Covering Required.

Owing to the numerous accidents to patients from the careless use of hot-water bottles, it is time some safe covering was adopted in hospitals which would effectually protect the sick from burns. Any woman who puts a bottle made either of india-rubber or metal into the bed of a patient without a covering proves herself a fool. On the other hand, we have not yet seen a washable cover in use which is absolutely safe. Here is a chance for an ingenious nurse—let her design one.

For Shock.

Dr. Kelly, of Baltimore, advises the use of a rectal nutrient enema containing 40 grains of ammonium carbonate after operations which have caused shock.

Never Eat Unless Hungry.

Wait for an appetite if it takes a week. Fasting is one of the saving graces. It has a spiritual significance only through its great physical and physiologic importance. If breakfast is a bore, or a lunch a matter of indifference, cut one or both of them out. Wait for distinct and unmistakable hunger—and then eat slowly. If you do this you need ask few questions as to the propriety and digestibility of what you eat, and it need not be predigested.

Get Rid of the Birds.

Among many peculiar examples of the causes of asthma given in the *Practitioner* for December is a case where the sufferer was a domestic cat, and the cause of offence was a medical man, and the cause of offence was a domestic cat. One of his nieces displayed a similar susceptibility to cats, nursing a cat always causing severe continued sneezing, nasal catarrh, and sometimes wheezing. In another case the cause of asthma was birds, different attacks being attributed to association with pigeons, canaries, and thrushes. Getting rid of the birds gave the patient complete relief, and the more severe attacks coincided with the moulting of the birds.

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