

Practical Points.

Infection by Bacteria. It has been demonstrated that bacteria cannot pass through the unbroken skin, mucous membrane, or granulating surface. These act as an effective barrier, an impenetrable armour, and unless there is an abrasion or missing link, the germs cannot gain access to the underlying tissues. When an infection atrium exists, however, the bacteria find an open gateway to the unprotected cells, and they at once pass in and endeavour to assert their pathogenic properties. For a germ to gain entrance to the body and produce disease there must be (1) infection by contact; (2) entrance through infection atrium; (3) localisation at a point of lowered vitality.

Japanese Surgical Methods. Surgeon-General Suzuki, speaking before the Convention of Military Surgeons at Detroit last week, described the surgical methods used in the Japanese Navy. He ascribed much of their success in the treatment of wounds to the fact that before an engagement each member of the crew of a warship was ordered to bathe and dress in perfectly clean underclothing. In a great many shot wounds fragments of clothing were carried into the body, and the insistence of clean underclothing prevented many cases of blood poisoning.

Experience proved that the conning tower was the most dangerous situation on a warship. Fragments of shell penetrated the slits, and did great damage. Admiral Togo, who was not wounded in any engagement, directed the Japanese Fleet from the compass bridge of the *Mikasa*.

The vision of gunners, Surgeon-General Suzuki continued, must be of the very best, if their shots were to count. Before every engagement the surgeons carefully examined the eyes of all gunners. Any gunner found to be suffering from an impairment of vision, which would not yield to immediate treatment, was transferred to another station, and his place filled by one whose eyes were perfect.

During engagements the crews were supplied with water containing 1 per cent. of boracic acid to wash their eyes when affected by powder, smoke, and dust. A cotton plug for the ears to prevent rupture of the ear-drums was also issued to every man in the fleet before action. Immense quantities of extra heavy clothing were supplied for the men engaged in winter operations before Port Arthur, and there had not been a single case of frostbite. The distribution of wide-brimmed straw hats in summer prevented any cases of sunstroke.

The Japanese surgeons had discovered that it was impracticable during action to attempt anything but the most necessary first dressing of severe wounds. After action, all more important and absolutely necessary surgical operations should be performed, but where possible the wounded should be hurried to the base hospital before being operated upon. Japanese experience showed that surgeries should be located below the water-line. If located above it, they were too much exposed to the enemy's fire.

The speaker urged the necessity of removing from the decks of warships all objects not absolutely necessary to the fighting of the ship. He described how twenty-three men had been killed and wounded on the *Mikasa* by the fragments of a semaphore which was struck by a shell.

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.*



In our special number next week (October 14th) we shall announce the result of our Five Guinea Prize Competition. The illustrated Prize Article will also appear in the same issue.

We are glad to learn that the Bethnal Green Guardians have raised the salary of their Infirmary Matron from £100 to £110 per annum, with further annual increments until a maximum of £150 per annum is reached. This is the same scale as that of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in relation to the salaries of their Matrons, which, together with rooms, board, attendance, and washing allowance, bear favourable comparison with the salaries of Matrons of many general hospitals.

The French Royal Family live so quietly in this country that we are sometimes apt to forget that they are in our midst. The fact, however, has received prominence by the recent accident to the Duchess of Guise. When it was subsequently necessary for the Duchess to take an anæsthetic on two occasions, Miss Hipkins, Matron of the Evesham Cottage Hospital, attended to prepare the patient, and has subsequently visited her on several occasions at Wood Noron. She has received the most cordial thanks of the Orleans family for the services she has rendered.

Miss Hipkins is now organising a Café Chantant and Concert in aid of the institution of which she is Matron, when the opening ceremony will be performed by Princess Louise of Orleans, who will also preside over the fruit stall. The Duke of Guise has sent a donation to the funds, and has announced his intention of being present, and it is hoped that the Duke and Duchess of Orleans may be able to attend the function. The Comtesse de Paris and Princess Louise recently visited the institution and expressed themselves delighted with its arrangements.

An interesting ceremony took place in the presence of a representative gathering recently in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, when Nurse Jeffries, who is leaving Consett, and who for seven years has worked as a Queen's Nurse in that town, was presented by Mr. E. G. Kirkhouse, manager of the blast furnace department at the

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