

vermin forms a strong reason for the placing of bath-rooms at the entrance to wards, instead of at the further end, as is commonly the case at present. Other vermin, besides fleas and bugs (which are unhappily only too well known to all nurses), are lice, which are of three varieties—*pediculus capitis*, which infests the head, *pediculus corporis* (body louse), infesting the body, and *pediculus pubis* (crab louse), infesting more particularly the pubic region. The utmost care and cleanliness must be observed in dealing with the cases in which these are present. In regard to the head, thorough washing, the use of methylated spirit to detach nits which are cemented to the hair, and combing twice a day with a small tooth comb dipped in one in twenty carbolic, is usually efficacious. Incidentally we may mention that the filthy practice of combing all heads in a ward, clean and dirty, once a week with what is known as "the ward tooth comb" should be abolished for ever. Every patient should have his own tooth comb, just as much as his own tooth brush. In dealing with body lice great attention must be paid to the cleanliness of all folds of the skin, such as the groins, axillae, &c. In bad cases it may be well to shave the axillae and the pubic region.

Should it be necessary to wash the patient in bed, additional precautions must be taken. The clothes as removed should be placed in a large sheet spread out for their reception. The blankets between which he is washed should be similarly treated, as should also the draw-sheet, which should cover the pillow while the head receives attention. The bundle should be securely tied and removed to be baked. The bed mackintosh used under the under blanket should be immediately scrubbed and carbolised.

The flannel with which the washing is done (soft soap being used as in the case of an ordinary bath) should be burnt, and that subsequently used should be examined each morning. It should always be carefully disinfected, and renewed as frequently as necessary.

If lice are permitted to remain in it there is no possibility of ever cleansing the patient thoroughly.

The utmost vigilance is also necessary in the case of a verminous person when splints are applied. If vermin are allowed to infest the splint, not only will the patient himself remain infected as well as suffer great discomfort from the irritation, but there is a strong probability that the pest will spread to the bedding, and perhaps even also to neighbouring patients. Another point to be remembered is that when a bed has curtains these should always be removed and clean ones put up after a patient leaves whose head or body has been infested with lice. They not infrequently crawl up the curtains, and will probably attack the next patient, who may be scrupulously clean, if this is not done. It is scarcely necessary to mention that in a similar case the bedstead should be carbolised and the bedding baked.

The derivation of the word "parasite" is from two Greek words: *para* upon and *sitoo* I feed. Parasites are literally living organisms deriving their nourishment from other living organisms. Those here referred to either live on the skin or pay it temporary visits to obtain nourishment.

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* * * 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.



It has been decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses in London in May, and in connection with it to have a small exhibition of Practical Nursing Appliances. A letter from Miss Barton, Hon. Secretary, has been received by the affiliated Leagues and Societies, asking for their aid in making the scheme a success, and the Bart's League has at once responded by appointing a sub-committee to deal with the matter.

It is now nearly ten years since the very complete and most instructive Nursing Exhibition and Nursing Conference was held in London, and there must be a very great number of practical appliances and things of interest to nurses in use which were not "dreamt of" a decade ago. For instance, League journals and League Badges were then non-existent. These might be on view—to say nothing of the portraits being gathered together for the International Portrait Gallery of Nursing Pioneers which future generations of nurses will find in their College Library in the coming by-and-bye. Many hospitals have good tips all their own, we often note them visiting around—and these articles might be more extensively used for the comfort of the sick and brought to the notice of nurses. No doubt an interesting little show will be forthcoming.

Through the kind offices of Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, we hope to keep our readers in close touch with the wonderful progress which is now being made in the uplifting of nursing in Germany. It is only the members of a profession who can work out their own salvation, and those who met the women of Germany at the Berlin Congress last year, could make no mistake about the mental and physical calibre of Germania's daughters. They are *strong*. They have immense obstacles to overcome—but they will *survive*.

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