

elderly or stout person he is propped up with several pillows, on the same day as the operation. I have seen that done to a gastro-enterostomy. Of course the idea is for his breathing to be easier, but I suggested that the continued pressure on both lungs is dangerous and that gently turning a patient on his side, well supporting him at the back, has many advantages, but nobody is convinced. Mr. R— removed the stitches on the seventh day, powdered the wound with talc, and replaced a dressing. As soon as her belt was ready the patient got up. She will have to wear it for four or five months, also a flannel belt with a cushion over the scar for night wear.

J. M. F.

The Anglo-American Nursing Home at Rome.

Lady Egerton (the charming Russian lady who was so kind to the English nurses in Athens during the war), of the British Embassy, and Mrs. White, of the American Embassy in Rome, are making an appeal in England to all friends of Italy, on behalf of the Anglo-American Nursing Home.

It was founded in 1902. During last year, 1905, the number of patients treated in the home itself was 48. Eighteen nurses were engaged for the season, and 121 cases were attended outside the house. There are also two free beds, and patients who are not well off are admitted at reduced rates. The efficiency of the nursing staff is generally recognised, and there is an excellent operating room furnished with all the latest improvements. It is self-supporting, and last year was able to carry over a surplus of about £130 from its total receipts of £1,677.

But it has now become necessary to extend its accommodation; and for this reason appeal is made to the generosity of the public. Last year it was found impossible to comply with all the demands made upon the home, and many applications for admittance and for nurses had to be refused. It is proposed to build an annexe to the present house, which will add twelve more rooms and, what is greatly needed, an isolated pavilion for the reception of infectious cases. Land has been purchased for the site of the latter. The estimated cost of building will be about £3,400. It is intended to begin building immediately. Only those who have had sick friends or relations in a foreign city can fully appreciate the immense boon of this establishment. To all the English and American travellers who visit Rome, the appeal for help is addressed to extend the sphere of usefulness of the home.

New Preparations, &c.

Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome have introduced two well-known old preparations in a new form.

"TABLOID" SODIUM CITRATE.

Difficulties associated with the digestion of artificially prepared foods by infants frequently come under the notice of the trained nurse.

The necessary modification of cow's milk by dilution and sweetening to approximate human milk is often inefficiently carried out. Consequently, the infant may develop gastro-intestinal symptoms as a result of its inability to digest the food administered.

The digestibility of cow's milk is greatly assisted by the addition of sodium citrate. The explanation of this which is usually given is that the acid caseinogen and the calcium salts of milk in presence of the gastric juice form a thick casein clot. If sodium citrate be added to the milk, it combines with the caseinogen to form a sodium compound, which is less dense and more absorbable than the calcium caseinogen compound in the normal milk clot. The calcium salts in the milk unite with the citric acid of the sodium citrate and the resultant calcium citrate is diluted by the stomach contents and absorbed. Thus the introduction of sodium citrate increases the digestibility of cow's milk in a remarkable manner, allows the absorption of the calcium salts, and greatly enhances the food value of the milk. The milk so modified is also a valuable antiscorbutic. This method of treating milk may be employed in all cases where there is reason to believe that the nourishment of the infant is unsatisfactory, and it is of great value in the case of poor patients who cannot carry out more complicated instructions regarding the modification of cow's milk. It is indicated when the mother's milk does not suit the child and also during weaning. It enables the amount of milk given in twenty-four hours to be increased, and is valuable in arresting or avoiding milk dyspepsia and the rickety condition seen in many hand-fed children.

The cheapness of this method of milk modification is also noteworthy. One or two grains or more of sodium citrate are usually ordered to be added to each ounce of milk. A "Tabloid" containing two grains should be dissolved in about one drachm (teaspoonful) of water and added as required to the milk.

MISTURA ALBA.

This excellent old-fashioned medicine, familiar to every hospital nurse, is now issued in tabloid form. Each contains:—Magnesium sulphate grs. 15 (0.972 gm.), magnesium carbonate grs. 2½ (0.162 gm.), oil of peppermint min. 1/32 (0.002 c.c.). The "Tabloid," therefore, presents a convenient and reliable means of administering this efficient stomachic and carminative combination. The usual dose would be from four to eight tabloids powdered and dissolved in water.

A practical point of some importance which is often not impressed on the probationer is that aperient "salts" should always be administered when the patient is fasting, and that their efficacy is increased by giving, immediately afterwards, half a pint of hot water.

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