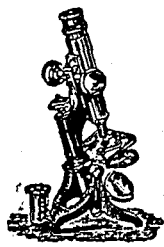


THE RICH CLAMOUR FOR CHEAP NURSES.

Miss Dock also shows that "the present clamour for cheap nurses is really coming from the rich, and from the attendants of the rich." For the patient of moderate means there are good hospital facilities at moderate cost, and hourly nursing is being developed in many directions. "The continuous nursing of such patients can and must be met in some other way; it cannot be satisfactorily met by reducing the standard of living of nurses in general, for ill-paid workers furnish a poor grade of work, and if one group is pushed downward in the scale of living all those just beneath are pushed still deeper down!"

Medical Matters.

INTESTINAL DISINFECTION.



Much has been written, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, of intestinal disinfection and antiseptics. Potter, in the 10th edition of his work on *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* names 42 antiseptics and 26 disinfectants. Frankel in his *Arzneimittel-Synthese* some two hundred antiseptics. This number of preparations is proof conclusive that none of them are satisfactory.

Sodium sulphate has recently received some attention in this particular, the claim being made that it is especially useful in dysentery, infantile diarrhoea, and typhoid fever. It is said that these conditions improve under treatment with this preparation, when the dose of the salt is short of that usually given as a laxative.

Whether the benefit which follows the administration of sodium sulphate be due to an antiseptic action, as this is commonly conceived, i.e., a substance destructive to germs, is extremely doubtful. Increased peristalsis following the administration of saline cathartics is due to the large amount of fluid in the large intestine and not as is the case with vegetable cathartics to irritation of the intestinal walls. There is retarded absorption in fact with a considerable excretion of the basic portion through the kidneys, while the acid content escapes more largely in the faeces. That there is a decrease in intestinal fermentation following the use of sodium sulphate and other like products is apparent, but is this not mechanical instead of chemical?

Are not the offending micro-organisms disposed of through the stools instead of, as some profess to claim, through destruction by antiseptics?

To administer a remedy for the purpose of destroying the pathogenic bacteria in the intestinal tract is after all a questionable procedure, as such a remedy will operate at the same time against the normal bacteria, which are essential to the proper conduct of the intestinal functions, and which are the most important of the measures by which these disease producing invaders are destroyed and eliminated. In fact the presence of these normal micro-organisms as an army of defence and offence is so necessary to the well-being of man in health and disease, and their number so far short of the requirements in diseased conditions above indicated, as well as their being weakened in their defence through the overwhelming number of the invaders, that Moro at the recent Congress of Naturalists and Physicians in Stuttgart advocated the introduction into the intestinal tract of such bacteria as it is known inhibit the growth of specific organisms, such, for instance, as typhoid, dysentery, etc., in fluid agar cultures per enema. This will seem to many rather radical therapy, but we are not warranted in condemning that which does not appeal to us, and with which we have had no experience.

We know that sodium sulphate has been successfully used for years in the treatment of dysenteries, diarrhoeas, and typhoid, but we are of opinion that it inhibits the growth rather than destroys the offending bacteria, and that antiseptics are, when cautiously used, sometimes useful locally, but seldom, if at all, in intestinal disturbance.

THE EFFECTS OF KUMYSS IN MALARIAL SUBJECTS.

A contemporary reports that kumyss has the power of revealing a larval malarial infection. Thus, within six to twelve hours following the ingestion of one or two bottles of kumyss, a malarial subject will invariably have an attack of typical chills and fever. If quinine be then given in a daily dose of 1 to 1.50 grammes for two or three days, and temporarily continued twice a week, the further administration of kumyss will not produce the phenomena of chills and fever as before. This curious property of kumyss of revealing hidden malarial infection was observed in an establishment devoted to the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by the administration of kumyss. Ordinary cow's milk does not produce this reaction.

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