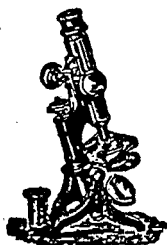


Medical Matters.

BLACKWATER FEVER.



Dr. W. C. Prout, Liverpool, contributed a paper on Blackwater Fever in the Section on Pathology at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Exeter, in which he said that in blackwater fever a history of repeated attacks of malaria fever was to be obtained. Amongst the signs and symptoms it would be found that during the stage of hæmoglobinuria the quantity of urine passed was increased, but diminished as the urine cleared. The speaker instanced cases of acute nephritis with hæmaturia mistaken for blackwater fever, and said that bilious remittent fever and jaundice has also been diagnosed as blackwater fever. The prognosis was not so universally unfavourable as was generally supposed. In regard to treatment the first indication was to get rid of the morbid products by means of the various excretory organs of the body. Calomel was the best purgative. Intravenous injection of normal saline solution was the most efficacious of remedies in very bad cases. The second important step was to counteract the malarial element in the attack; quinine should be given when malarial parasites were found, at least in one dose, watching effects. Supporting the strength and alleviating any distressing symptoms by every available means were urgently called for in all cases.

KISSING AND DISEASE.

The Medical Officer of Health for the Plympton district of Devon, reporting to the County Council on an outbreak of diphtheria in the parish, says:

"The fact that the infected children lived so far apart, and that they had only one common meeting-place (the school), almost forced me to seek an explanation of the outbreak either in the school premises or in the association of the children as scholars, and this opinion is supported by the fact that the outbreak appeared to subside after the first closure of the schools, but reappeared after the reopening.

"A difficult fact to explain is that out of the sixteen patients fourteen were girls, and this in spite of the fact that the boys and girls sit side by side and use pencils and slates in common. I was therefore only able to explain the peculiar incidence of the disease on the girls by the custom which girls have of walking about arm in arm or of kissing each other when saying good-bye."

Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology as Applied to Practical Nursing.

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(Continued from page 164.)

HYSTERIA.—This term, which was originally given to a number of symptoms, because they were supposed to be connected with the womb (Ustera being Greek for the uterus) has, unfortunately, for many years been a fashionable refuge for ignorance. Symptoms which were strange and puzzling, and which the observer could not explain by reference to any known disease, were all covered by the easy explanation of the patient being hysterical. It is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that within recent years the term has become much less generally used than formerly, as the various symptoms, previously classed under that term, have become better understood. A tendency to laugh immoderately, and then to weep, finally to scream and laugh again, which formerly was regarded by the public as the most definite sign of hysteria, is also in these days much less frequently met with than formerly. Its diminution coincided with the advent of better physical training for girls, outdoor exercises, more healthy environment, and, in fact, an era of better nourished bodies and nerves. The symptom is now known to be chiefly, if not entirely, due to a want of nerve control, and this, in its turn, to a deficiency of nerve nourishment. It is, therefore, found amongst patients, men and women alike, convalescing from exhausting illness of any kind, and especially when that illness has been associated with more or less severe losses of blood.

Within recent years a large section of cases which were formerly attributed to Hysteria in women have been found to be due to ovarian disease, or inflammation of the Fallopian tubes, to the presence of fibroids of the uterus, or to some other diseases in connection with the same organ, the results of which are now known to be painful and exhausting. With increasing knowledge of the causes, and increasing skill and success in their removal, the cases of so-called Hysteria which were formerly so frequent are, therefore, every year growing less common.

Another large class of cases, formerly described under this term, are now known as NEURASTHENIA, the literal meaning of which is Nerve-weakness, due to various exhausting diseases, and it is these, therefore, with which

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)