

Practical Points.

The exhibits at the Tuberculosis Congress at Washington, writes Miss L. L. Dock in the *American Journal of Nursing*, were of wonderful interest. It is considered that on the whole the exhibit was the most comprehensive and most instructive that has ever been brought together, even although, by the bad management of our Customs Houses, the exhibits from several foreign countries were not even unpacked.

Of strictly nursing exhibits there were some very interesting examples of which the Baltimore and Philadelphia Visiting Nurse Associations were in the first rank. The Baltimore nurses concentrated their efforts on demonstrating the social problem of the unteachable and careless consumptive which was also so ably and frankly treated in their papers. A striking set of charts showed the extremely small number of those who were classed as adequately careful and therefore not a source of danger to their families, the slightly larger number of those who were fairly careful, the very large number of those who were careless, and the number, still alarmingly large, of those who were grossly careless, and thus undoubtedly a great source of danger to their communities. The argument made by the Baltimore nurses for compulsory segregation was thus strongly supported. Very impressive also was their showing, out of three thousand patients, that exactly one-half were on, and the other half below, the poverty line. Their charts also showed that a large proportion of the cases are found by the nurses themselves, namely 20 per cent., while 50 per cent. came from dispensaries and 9 per cent. from physicians.

The Philadelphia Visiting Nurses' Association showed an admirably arranged life-size exhibit of a room as found with a tuberculosis patient in the last stages in bed in the kitchen where his mother, a coloured woman, was doing fine laundry work. The contrasting room showed what they succeeded in doing in this case. Their whole exhibit was most instructive as to the social problem. Miss Jacques was in charge of the exhibit, and her paper on "Home Occupations" was a valuable contribution.

The exhibit from Providence also showed a horribly life-like model of a dark, unwholesome bedroom with the same re-arranged. The Brooklyn Bureau of Charities had some interesting photographs of their nursing work showing many ingenious adaptations of porches, roofs, and windows for the open-air treatment. The Boston nurses demonstrated their dispensary work.

The attempt to describe the exhibit as a whole would go far over our space, but I may note the photographs of the out-door workshops at Saranac where the patients work out of doors in midwinter at tables which are heated by hot water pipes. The model window tents and various contrivances for living out of doors were numerous and all had some points of interest.

The Local Use of Magnesium Sulphate in the Treatment of Erysipelas.

The *Therapeutic Gazette* states that with this treatment, the pain and discomfort are relieved in a few hours, the temperature falls to normal rapidly, usually within the first twenty-four hours, and the patient recovers in from two to seven days. The method of application is as follows: A saturated solution of magnesium sulphate is applied on a mask consisting of fifteen to twenty pieces of ordinary gauze; this is covered by some non-absorbent material and kept wet as often as necessary. No other treatment is necessary. The report is based on observations upon thirty-five cases.

A Powder for Burns.

Dr. Renner recommends, in a German paper, as a dressing for burns of every degree, a powder consisting of one part of bismuth subnitrate and two parts of kaolin. The burned area is first thoroughly cleaned, then quickly powdered and bandaged with sterile gauze. The thorough drying of the area and the absence of infection are the chief virtues of the treatment, while the formation of bullæ is almost entirely prevented. The author's results have been most excellent.

Preparing Fomentations.

Where one of the popular Perfection oil-heating stoves is available the following will be found quite the best method of preparing fomentations. Place on the stove a wide-based enamelled basin, or plate, having another plate to use as a cover. Wring out tightly in hot water two pieces of flannel, or old woven woollen vests are excellent for the purpose, and place them in the basin. These can be used alternately and changed if desirable every ten minutes. They get almost too hot to handle in that time, without drying. One advantage of this method is that the stove may be placed within reach of the patient, who, if alone, can easily change the fomentations without assistance.

An Important Point.

Dr. G. Arbour Stephens states in the *Lancet* that in his experience patients, especially children, who are unable to digest the milk supplied as the ordinary market commodity, are able to take milk obtained from cows not in calf, and to thrive on it. He states that the daily supply of milk in this country is in 99 per cent. of cases obtained from cows in calf, and the difference between the two milks is considerable, as the drain of the embryonic calf must seriously interfere with the quality of the pregnant cow's milk. This is a point of much importance, which nurses and midwives will do well to note.

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