

not encroach upon its special functions. To the nurse are entrusted duties requiring practical skill, only attained after prolonged training, which the profession of medicine prescribes, but which individual members could not perform, because their training is in the scientific not the practical branch of the healing art. Neither branch is efficient without the aid of the other.

### Medical Matters.

#### ANTISEPTICS IN SURGERY.

Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Senior Surgeon to King's College Hospital, who delivered the Bradshaw Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons last week, chose as his subject, "The Treatment of Wounds," and said that in a subject such as medicine, where knowledge is still very imperfect, there is a constant oscillation in the views which are current from time to time, and a constant swing of the pendulum of medical opinion in one or other direction. Nowhere was this oscillation of opinion more marked at the present time than in the views founded on experimental and chemical pathology, and more especially in connection with bacteriology and the relation of bacteria to the living body. As regards the treatment of wounds, the profession was just now in one of those extreme oscillations. He proposed, therefore, not to produce any new facts, but to go over the elementary points on the subject, and indicate to what extent the original conceptions have had to be modified, and how far it was well to go in accordance with the present state of our knowledge.

After discussing at length matters connected with modern surgery, he expressed the opinion that the pendulum had swung too far in the direction of the avoidance of antiseptics, and that the reasonable use of all the means at disposal for securing asepticity of wounds would furnish more constant results. The attempt to treat wounds without any antiseptics was a very unnecessary complication. His own results, and those of surgeons who use antiseptics with judgment, were in every way as good as those obtained with the more elaborate aseptic precautions, in fact he ventured to assert that they were better, because they were more constant and dependable.

#### SLEEPING SICKNESS IN HORSES.

Sleeping sickness is a disease which affects horses as well as human beings, and Colonel Seely, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, recently stated in the House of Commons that the attention of scientific men in this country and elsewhere is being continually directed to this matter.

### The Day Camp.\*

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The Day Camp scheme, which has so much of the Tuberculosis work, had its origin in Germany, the first camp being established near Berlin in 1900. During the following four years, up to 1904, the success was so great as to lead to the forming of six camps in the vicinity of Berlin alone, several in other localities in Germany, while England, Austria, and Belgium could boast of one each, making an aggregate of nursing days in the latter year, 1904, of over 133,000. Noting this success, and realising the opportunity for educational work, the Boston Association for the Relief and Control of Tuberculosis opened the pioneer camp in this country in July of 1905 at Parker Hill, in Roxbury, two miles from the business centre of Boston. That this association was justified in its belief in this method of work, has been proven by the gratifying results of the past three years.

In order to be as helpful as possible to any organisation wishing to establish a camp, we will consider briefly:—

- 1st. Location.
- 2nd. Equipment.
- 3rd. Staff.
- 4th. Daily Régime.
- 5th. Results.
- 6th. Cost.

#### LOCATION.

##### *On car line.*

As the type of cases are such that going to and from their homes on the cars is as much exercise, and often at first more, than they are able to take. Special cars are not necessary. Divide the patients into groups, going at specified times, thus avoiding over-crowding of cars or inconvenience to the public. If your patients are careful they are not a menace to other passengers, and they may prove a factor in public education.

##### *On grounds of hospital.*

Camps located on hospital grounds and run in connection with other institutions can be conducted at much less expense. The cost of raw material for food, the salaries of a nurse and one maid would be all required outside of chairs, blankets, etc. Also one has the support of the established institution in matters of discipline.

\* Read at the International Congress on Tuberculosis, Washington, U.S.A.

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