

and, in addition, afford the expense of india-rubber gloves? Is he unacquainted with the dictum of one of the world's greatest surgeons and most brilliant operators, to the effect that the use of gloves to the surgeon is to keep his hands clean while he is *not* operating, so that he may take them off when the time to operate comes, and touch the patient with clean hands? Again the hair of the vulva is always to be cut short, or before an obstetric operation shaved. Apart from these antiseptic extravagancies, which only indicate a want of confidence in simple means—or, may we put it, a want of trust in Lord Lister?—Dr. Fromme's advice as to the conduct of child-bed is sound and good. He does not advise vaginal douches in a normal lying-in. There is a great deal of information about the different kinds of bacterial infection to which the puerperal woman is liable and their effects.

TROPICAL HYGIENE.

At the first of a series of lectures on "Tropical Hygiene," delivered by Dr. W. J. Simpson, in the Council Room of the London Chamber of Commerce, he said that there were good commercial and Imperial reasons why merchants should be interested in tropical hygiene and in the work of the London School of Tropical Medicine. Our tropical possessions covered an area of over 5,000,000 square miles and represented half of the British Empire. If we set aside India and the West Indies on the supposition that their progress was satisfactory, there remained that vast territory, the size of Europe, where there were scope and opportunity in plenty for energy and enterprise. The greatest obstacle to the full and rapid development of these regions was a dread of their unhealthiness.

So far as our knowledge went, there were for a European three conditions essential to the maintenance of health in the tropics. The first was that the individual must adapt himself to the climate. He must wear suitable clothing, protect himself from undue exposure to the sun, live a simpler life in regard to food and drink, and be regular in his habits. Secondly, he must live under sanitary conditions; and, thirdly, he must be protected from insect-borne diseases. The influence of the London School of Tropical Medicine, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, had been so remarkable that other nations had followed its example. The mortality of Europeans was very different to-day in the West Indies, in West Africa, and in most parts of India from what it was when our soldiers and traders first occupied those countries.

Dr. Simpson proceeded to explain the nature of the casual agents of infection and the manner in which insects spread disease.

Massage Teaching at the School for Nurses at the Salpetriere Hospital, Paris.*

By Miss G. PROCOPE.

It was not without a certain amount of hesitation that—nearly two years ago—I undertook to organise a course of instruction on massage at the New School for the Assistance Publique Nurses at Paris.

I realised only too well the difficulties I had before me. It was not only a question of doing something hitherto unknown, but a question of going against certain prejudices—a question of overcoming certain opposition.

It was indeed the first time that a course of regular and methodical massage had ever been organised in Paris, according to a fixed programme; hitherto there had only been theoretical lectures, without any practical application. Consequently, what I really had to do was to found a school for massage, and just because it was a question of a school, including regular recruitment and constant training of masseuses, I felt how very hard my task might be. The situation, from a public point of view, in France is quite different from that of many other countries. Although they realise the immense benefits derived from massage in medical treatment, there is no other existing organisation corresponding to this therapeutic need worthy of the name.

Except a certain number of experienced practitioners—mostly foreigners—many so-called masseuses in Paris have never gone through the long training needed for the profession, hence some discredit clings to the name of "masseuse." For this reason, too, doctors have kept difficult "massage" cases for themselves, leaving the easier cases to inexperienced masseuses, to carry out their prescriptions. I might add that these inexperienced ones are many of them only desirous of pleasing their patients by æsthetically treating the physique, instead of attaching importance to what is conducive to health. You can, therefore, easily understand what a delicate matter it was to organise a course of instruction of this kind for hospital nurses.

In almost all the Paris hospital wards, by force of circumstances and for the want of a regular organisation, the doctors and surgeons had been obliged to call in "masseuses" who were recruited haphazard, without any guarantee for their efficiency, and in no way forming part of the staff.

* Read before the International Congress of Nurses, London, July, 1909.

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