

should be well supported in a convenient position. For a preliminary examination, the patient may be seated in a chair facing a well-lighted window, and by preference the back of the chair should be sufficiently high to afford a rest for the head, so that it cannot be withdrawn. To secure this, it is sometimes desirable to place the patient sitting or standing with his back close against a wall; but where any more elaborate operation is required, it is better to ask the patient to lie down, on a couch or firm table, which should be placed at right angles to the incoming light; and with the affected eye on the same side as the light is coming from. A firm table, with a pillow, is preferable to a soft couch, and for precise operations the height of the table should be such as to enable the operation to be conducted without the necessity of stooping much over the patient, which wearies and unsteadies the operator.

A simple and convenient method for the examination of an infant or a struggling child is to place it on the lap of someone seated on a chair facing a window. The examiner occupies a second chair at right angles to the first, and placed as may be most convenient to the right hand or to the left, and, spreading a towel across his or her knees, lowers the child's head backwards until it is firmly held between the knees and supported on the towel. Both hands are left free for whatever further manipulations may be required in the examination or treatment. If the lids are moist and slippery, it is often well to cover one finger of each hand with a linen cloth, so as to increase one's hold upon the skin surface. When the lids are much swollen, or, on account of extreme sensitiveness to light, there is spasmodic contracture of the eyelids, it is often difficult to get the lids properly separated by drawing them apart with the fingers alone. In such a case the nurse ought to have at hand, for the surgeon's use, some artificial retractors, such as Desmarre's or McGillivray's. In the separation of the lids, however, the utmost care must always be taken to avoid scratching or abrading the cornea or exerting firm pressure upon the eyeball. In the former case a slight abrasion may, by septic infection, become a serious ulcer, and when one is examining an eye for the first time which has been exposed to injury, or which may be deeply ulcerated, or has recently been opened into by operation, any undue pressure upon the eyeball may lead to expulsion of some of the contents of the eye with disastrous results; for instance, escape of the aqueous, prolapse of the iris, and, in larger wounds, loss of the lens or vitreous.

(To be concluded.)

The School of Massage, at the London Homœopathic Hospital.

A very interesting and useful department at the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., is the School of Massage and Physical Gymnastics, in charge—under Dr. Deane, a member of the medical staff—of Miss Margaret Manning, the Instructress in Massage, who not only holds the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, but has also studied for two years in Stockholm.

I learnt from the Matron, Miss Clara Hoadley, that the ordinary term of training is for six months. Trained nurses pay a fee of £5 5s. and other pupils £10 10s. for the course. The probationers in the hospital go down to the massage department for three months, and thus get a useful insight into medical rubbing, though not the thorough training which will enable them to take a certificate.

We found Miss Manning in a women's ward, in a workmanlike overall, which her pupils also wear, giving massage to a patient. Later I accompanied her to the gymnasium, and there saw something of her methods.

On an average about 25 cases come to the hospital daily for the special treatment given in the physical department, cases of spinal curvature, which benefit much from physical gymnastics, neuritis, paralysis, and many others, and last, but not least, many cases of fracture. Miss Manning says that at first she was afraid for the fracture cases which were put into no splints, and had massage from the first, but now she is quite happy about them, at least with patients who will exercise a reasonable amount of care. The little urchins of the neighbourhood are quite oblivious to the need for any special care—of a Colles' fracture, for instance, and will readily take part in a street fight with the injured member, and make such use of it as they can quite casually.

Amongst the patients are some whom one would not expect to find suffering from neuritis; for instance, a blacksmith, whose sturdy right arm is being treated, and a butcher, who has injured his arm in lifting a heavy carcass. There are many children amongst the patients, and one little boy was exercising, and apparently enjoying the process, on a bar fixed across the room.

If there are any specially interesting cases in the wards, Miss Manning gives a demonstration to the pupils, if the case is a suitable one. They also have lectures from the visiting physician.

It is interesting to learn that some of the keenest and best pupils are the army instructors, who come up from Aldershot to take

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