

## Post-Graduate Lectures at Guy's Hospital.

### BRIEF SUMMARY.

In his second lecture on "Recent Changes in treatment in the Medical Wards," Dr. Cameron fully described the new method of treating œdema by the salt free diet. He also described the Lactic Acid Therapy, and stated that claims were being put forward in favour of the treatment of a great variety of diseases by means of "Soured Milk," *i.e.*, by introducing into the alimentary canal, active cultures of the Lactic Acid organisms. The theory is held that the intestines contain great numbers of bacteria, and that they have a useful task to perform. In the latter stages of digestion they come to the aid of the intestinal gases and ferments, in still further splitting up the food until the waste matter alone is left. It is considered by some that certain conditions are due to over action of these bacteria, with the result that poisonous products are formed, and they are absorbed into the blood vessels in the wall of the bowel, and so diffused into the body generally. Neurasthenia, melancholia, multiple arthritis, wasting and malnutrition generally are a few of the conditions which are supposed to result from this intestinal toxæmia. The evidence of this intestinal toxæmia, Dr. Cameron pointed out, was very unsatisfactory, and physicians in this country are profoundly sceptical as to its existence. In France, however, these views are held, and it is in Paris that Professor Metchnikoff has introduced the method of feeding by soured milk, which contains the most powerful of the lactic acid organisms, the *Bacillus Bulgaricus*, in the hope that this organism, which is in itself harmless to man, will survive the danger of destruction in the stomach, and flourish to such an extent in the intestine that the other organisms will be destroyed.

The great benefits derived from the Electrical Department, by the application of heat to the joints for chronic joint diseases, such as osteo arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, and also the treatment of ex-ophthalmic goitre by the Röntgen Rays, were described.

On Tuesday, 19th April, Mr. E. C. Hughes gave his first lecture on "Recent Changes in Surgery," and compared the treatment of appendicitis and general peritonitis with that of five or ten years ago. The operation itself is simpler and can be performed in a much shorter time, for the peritoneal cavity is not washed out, and the great danger of shock to the patient is minimised. The mortality is now much smaller,

being only from 15 to 30 per cent., whereas five or ten years ago it was as high as from 90 to 99 per cent. The lecturer pointed out that the after treatment lay very much in the nurse's hands, the patient having to be kept in the Fowler position, which needs nice adjustment of pillows to prevent slipping back. In contrast with the old idea of withholding fluids, water is given by mouth as the patient desires. Rectal and subcutaneous saline infusion was explained and advocated. Shock, collapse, flatulence, and vomiting were important things to note, and the need for the nurse's observation to report carefully on the condition of the patient was emphasised, as it might often prevent a second operation being performed. For collapse the use of Ernutin and Pituitrin Extract instead of injecting strychnine was advocated and explained.

## League News.

### GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

The eighth annual meeting and the second annual dinner of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, will be held in the Nurses' Home on Friday evening, April 29th, 1910, after which there will be a short exhibition of lantern slides. The dinner will be served in the Nurses' Dining-hall at 7 p.m. punctually, and everyone is looking forward to a very festive time.

The Sixth Annual Exhibition of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' Photographic Society will be opened in the Nurses' Home on the above date. A special effort is being made to make the Exhibition a success, and all Members interested in photography are asked to send in photographs. Entry forms may be obtained from Miss Smith, Hon. Sec., G.H.N.P.S., Guy's Hospital, S.E.

### GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM, NURSES' LEAGUE.

The third annual meeting (ninth general meeting) of the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League will be held at the Hospital, on Saturday, May 7th, at 3 p.m., and will be followed by a social gathering at 4.15. The League was formed in 1906, and the first meeting was held on May 1st of that year. There are now over 200 members. The Hon. Secretary is Miss McFarlane, Matron, the Infirmary, Kidderminster.

Part of the business at the meeting will be to decide on the form of the memorial which is being raised by past and present nurses to the memory of the late Miss M. E. Jones. The Matron is Treasurer of the Memorial Fund, to which contributions should be sent by May 1st.

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