

Post-Graduate Lectures at Guy's Hospital.

In his second lecture on Tuesday, April 26th, Mr. C. E. Hughes fully explained the treatment known as "Bier's Treatment," which has only been adopted in England during the last few years. The treatment consists in the production of a passive hyperæmia or excess of blood in a diseased limb, organ, or tissue, and is adopted in cases of inflammation, acute and chronic. The cardinal signs of acute inflammation, *e.g.*, an abscess, are redness, heat, and swelling, pain, and impairment of function. The usual treatment adopted to overcome the inflammation is aimed at reducing these signs, but Bier's treatment seems to aim at producing recovery by going to work in the opposite direction. For cases of acute inflammation of a limb, a constricting bandage is applied around the limb well above the level of the inflammation; it is applied lightly but firmly enough to produce swelling and increased redness of the whole limb, including the inflamed area below the bandage. The bandage is applied for a certain length of time, is then removed, and again applied, and so on. The cases for which the treatment is suitable are some forms of inflammation, acute necrosis of bone, acute cellulitis, whitlow, boils and carbuncles, abscesses, sinuses and empyema.

Bier's treatment may be produced—(a) by a constricting bandage placed on a limb above the inflamed area firmly enough to impede the venous return but not the arterial supply; (b) by cupping glasses; (c) by means of heat, the limb or part being placed in a hot air bath.

Mr. Hughes showed several specimens of cupping glasses and explained how they were used. He also gave certain rules and principles which must be observed in each case.

LECTURES ON BABIES.

A further course of "Lectures on Babies" was begun on Tuesday, May 3rd, by Dr. Ralph Vincent, at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, who lectured on "The Chemistry of Infantile Digestion." Dr. Vincent is most lucid, and treats a complicated subject in a manner comparatively easy to follow, illustrating his remarks with interesting experiments and epidiascopic demonstrations. The lecture was well attended by nurses from outside, who should be able to assimilate much valuable information, and to use the practical hints given to the greater comfort and lasting benefit of that much ill-used person the baby, of whose sufferings, by reason of unsuitable food, no one who has had the privilege of listening to Dr. Ralph Vincent can have any manner of doubt.

A Scheme Suggested for the Organ- isation and Proper Manage- ment of the Work now being Undertaken by the Branches of the British Red Cross Society.

By MRS. NETTERVILLE BARRON
(Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League.)

In order that the work of the above Society may not be rendered futile through (a) lack of knowledge, (b) lack of organisation, it is necessary that meetings should be held in every village from which it is proposed to draw recruits. At these meetings the scope of the work and the detailed duties should be explained by a speaker thoroughly conversant with a properly thought out scheme. Vague generalisations are useless at such meetings, and do not inspire the people with any desire to volunteer. Volunteers should be told exactly what will be expected of them, and it should be pointed out how workers other than nurses and bearers are a necessary part of the scheme. Every encouragement should be given to volunteers to come forward, and the speaker should endeavour by going into details to arouse the audience to a sustained interest and enthusiasm.

Volunteers having thus been obtained, classes for "First Aid" and "Home Nursing" should then be arranged. Before these classes it should be clearly explained again what they are for, and that only those who agree to take a definite part in the work will be admitted. Any attempt to combine generally useful instruction with the very precise and specialised instruction requisite for Red Cross work should be deprecated. The pupils should know that they are there for a definite and noble purpose—*i.e.*, the care of the sick and wounded in the time of war. That they will also obtain knowledge valuable in their own homes is, no doubt, true, but that should not be made an essential part of the scheme.

Nurses must take both classes, but workers other than nurses need only take First Aid.

It is necessary for all workers to take the First Aid classes, in order that in the event of war they shall be recognised by belligerents as Red Cross workers. Those whose work is preliminary—that is, over before war breaks out—need not, of course, take the First Aid classes.

WHO IS TO HAVE CONTROL?

This preliminary work being over, it should now be understood that the control and

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