

temperature, pulse, and respirations all became more normal. Only once were there any alarming symptoms, when toward the end of this week his pulse became intermittent, and he again showed signs of possible collapse, an injection of strychnine was at once administered and the bad place bridged over; then gradually, but very gradually, Tom began to take some interest in life again.

At the beginning of the eleventh week, he began to get up, and the doctor brought his scales and weighed him; his weight was then 4 stone 7 lbs., and he a boy of 13 years!

At the end of the twelfth week he was taken out for the first time in a bath chair; during that week he gained 4 lbs.; the next week 3 lbs., and very slowly resumed his normal weight; but that was not until six or eight weeks later.

Feeding up with all kinds of wholesome nourishing things was the order of the day, with constant fresh air.

His first walk was taken nearly fifteen weeks from the day he swallowed the grass, and on his return his temperature (per rectum) was 99.6, but subsided towards evening; his actual weight was then 5 stone 12 lbs.

For the next three weeks, after any slight exertion, his temperature would rise, but beyond that there were no ill effects, and his progress towards health was steady though slow.

About the seventeenth week he was taken to London to see a specialist, who had been called in to see him twice during his worst days; the morning we started his breath was terribly offensive, and on arriving at Waterloo Station, and getting out of the train, the boy suddenly vomited on to the platform. At once I hastily gathered up the vomited matter for examination, and there, after causing such serious trouble, in fact, almost the death of Tom, was the piece of grass which had been swallowed four months before. On investigation, it proved to be a piece of flowering grass, the stalk was still green, and was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches long, with several husks; it now reposes in the museum of one of the London hospitals.

We continued our journey to the doctor with hearts full of joy and thanksgiving; his prescription was a long stay in Switzerland, where I accompanied my patient and had the great delight of watching his return to complete health and strength.

Once again the sputum was examined for tubercle bacilli, and a guinea pig was injected, but happily without any reaction whatever. All this happened some years ago. To-day Tom is preparing for Sandhurst stronger and healthier

than ever in his life before, as a troublesome throat weakness entirely disappeared as the result of the open air treatment.

Tom's parents estimated that piece of grass cost them altogether nearly £1,000, to say nothing of the terrible worry and anxiety during those never to be forgotten four months.

I. J. M. B.

### Some Further Notes on the Voluntary Aid Scheme of the British Red Cross Society.

By MARY C. FAIR.

Mrs. Netterville Barron's well thought out scheme in connection with the above appears to me in many ways an excellent skeleton plan on which voluntary aid societies may be worked. I should like to emphasise, however, again, the fact that though in towns and large villages there will be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary instruction for the untrained workers, in the remoter, more isolated small country places where very likely in time of war or national stress, the makeshift hospital might be of the utmost value, it is very difficult indeed under existing rules to find means to obtain the teaching especially of nursing. My own opinion is that as far as possible existing machinery should be utilised. Most excellent lectures are given by county council lecturers on home nursing who are usually trained nurses and also trained lecturers. These lectures can be arranged for in any district at a very small cost. Here we charge 2d. a lecture. We have had two lectures out of a course of nine. We are a scattered rural community, seven miles from the railway in a wild mountain district. At the first lecture 41 women were present, at the second 43, and others are coming to the succeeding lectures, many having to come three, four, five, or six miles to do so. The greatest interest is shown, and the lecturer not only expounds the theory of elementary nursing to her audience, but also gives practical demonstrations and a practice class to such as desire it, a privilege eagerly taken advantage of. She is a trained nurse, and also a most excellent teacher who puts forward the points to be learned in a manner very easy to grasp and act upon. Now many, both doctors and nurses, though knowing their own work perfectly, cannot impart their knowledge successfully to others: they have not the gift of teaching. In a country place you may have a capital doctor but an extremely bad teacher, and very likely you have no nurse at all, or at the best,

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