

an abdominal window, leaving plenty of room for expansion. The jackets, and the splints to which they are fixed, are provided with "back doors," which can easily be removed and replaced when attention to the back is necessary. This, by the way, is an important item in the nursing, most backs receiving attention every four hours, day and night.

Describing the "back-door splint" to members of the British Medical Association on the occasion of their visit to the hospital last year, Mr. Gauvain said: "A way which has proved itself to be in our hands a very useful one for obtaining hyper-extension combined with immobilisation is by the use of the 'back-door splint,' which is padded appropriately for each case. The splint is padded with animal wool, which is much more suitable for the purpose than ordinary cotton wool."

Plasters applied one day are finished two days later, and each nurse is responsible for keeping those of her own cases cleaned and polished. Adjoining the plaster room is the X-ray room, where an unusually fine apparatus, a present from a generous donor, is installed.

The treatment of tuberculous abscesses, including psoas abscesses, is usually by aspiration instead of incision. The difficulty of the caseation of pus, which so often occurs in these cases, which prevents its flow through the cannula, is met, if necessary, by the injection of a suitable preparation, by means of which it is liquefied, and can then be evacuated without difficulty.

In one of the wards where the children are on spinal boards, no beds are used but "stands" the size of the boards. The miniature mattresses are made of two "absent-minded beggar" pillows.

Open windows and fresh air are a great feature of the wards, even snowflakes drift in, but the children seem to enjoy the life.

Mention must be made of the school where the education of such children as are able to attend is carried on. Nurses are detailed for this duty, which carries with it special privileges, and this plan is found to work better than employing outside teachers.

The average stay of each child in the Home is one year, but some stay for two and even more. When they leave, many are seen at least every three months by Mr. Gauvain at the Finsbury Dispensary, where facilities are given him for this purpose, and in the case of those from a distance, and they come from all parts of the kingdom, he keeps in touch with them by correspondence with their own doctors.

Mention must be made of the Dispensary where medicines and drugs are dispensed by the Night Sister.

It will be realised that the nursing experience obtained in the Home is extremely valuable, and as probationers are received at eighteen years of age they are barely old enough for admission to a general hospital when they have finished their three years' training. During their training they receive lectures from the Medical Superintendent on Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, and from the Matron and Assistant Matron on Nursing. They also receive instruction in the teaching of physically defective children, plaster and X-ray work, cooking, laundry, and needlework. At the end



A CASE OF SPINAL OARIES.

of three years probationers, if efficient, receive a certificate of training in the nursing of special disease of children. Sir William Treloar has now instituted a gold medal, awarded to the best nurse at the end of three years' training, in memory of his wife, and the first will be presented by the Lord Mayor when he visits the Home next May.

Besides the Home, where some 200 children owe their best chance of future fitness to the kindness of Sir William Treloar, there is the College where older boys are taught trades, by which they can support themselves, but that is another story.

M. B.

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