

are very far-reaching, and the beginning of a great work for the nation.

The school nurses' duties vary in different towns, and no hard and fast rule can be laid down. Some part of her time may be spent in assisting the doctor at the medical inspection, weighing, measuring, and testing eyes and ears. The rest of her day may be spent in visiting the homes of the children, advising the mothers as to treatment and cleanliness.

In some towns a nurse does not assist at medical inspections, but visits the schools and homes in her district, giving advice and slight preparatory treatment, and when necessary urges medical treatment.

The systematic examination of the girls' heads in school is the only way to eradicate the pediculi, and then the nits are obstinate and difficult to remove.

The parents do not take a high enough standard as regards the cleanliness of the head—the nits do not matter! The most effective method to kill the pediculi is to soak the head with paraffin or methylated spirit, but it is one much too dangerous to recommend for home treatment. By using carbolic oil, oil of sassafras, or quassia chips repeatedly the head may soon be cleansed. The hair must be cut behind the ears, where the nits are always so thick, and the remaining nits may be removed gradually by soaking well with vinegar, and combing off. It is a good plan to ask the girls to plait or tie their hair back.

In cases of very dirty heads the hair should all be cut off, and the sores and scabs softened with carbolic oil, and a starch or linseed poultice applied.

To make a starch poultice, take four tablespoonfuls of wheaten starch mixed into a smooth paste with cold water. Add one pint of boiling water, stirring well until right consistency is reached. When cold, spread on a large piece of linen to a thickness of half an inch. Face with gauze and apply to head.

Other cases which come under her notice are cases of *scabies*—a simple inflammation of the skin produced by the irritation of the "acarus scabei," and scratching of the sufferer. It is a contagious disease, and only eradicated by thoroughly washing with soft soap and nail brush all crevices between fingers and toes, bathing in hot water to which has been added 2 oz. of sulphide of potassium, thoroughly drying the body, and rubbing well into the affected parts an ointment made by mixing 1 drachm of sulphur to 1 oz. of pure lard. Clothes must be disinfected.

Impetigo is a contagious disease appearing on the face and scalp of children. Small

vesicles appear on the skin which contain serum, but rapidly become sero-purulent and rupture, which gives rise to a crust or scab.

When treating, the crusts must be removed by washing carefully with soap and water, or bathed with warm gruel water. Then zinc or boracic ointment spread on linen and applied to the surface. The general health must be improved.

Ringworm. There are numbers of parasiticide applications to choose from, but it is not so much the kind of ointment used that is so important as the way in which it is applied. The hair should be cut short for an inch round the patch, or if necessary, all over the head; the head thoroughly washed at the outset with soft soap, and all scabs removed, and subsequently, before applying new ointment, the old must be washed off, and, if possible, the old hairs drawn out with forceps, for every follicle so emptied is cured.

It is only when new hair is grown and repeated examinations have failed to disclose any isolated diseased hairs that a cure may be pronounced.

Sore Eyes and Granular Ophthalmia.—Until treatment is obtained the mother should be directed to wash out the eyes with boracic lotion by drawing down the lower lid of the eye and pouring the lotion into the eye, a few drops at a time, from a small, clean teaspoon. The greatest gentleness must be used.

Vaseline or boracic lotion should be smeared on the lids when asleep to prevent sticking. Cleanliness and the general health must be improved.

The Isla Stewart Scholar.

Miss Rundle, the Isla Stewart Scholar, has been the guest of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, which she has found most pleasant and profitable. A visit to Washington, as the guest of Miss Nevins at the Garfield Hospital, was also greatly enjoyed. These visits will add to the delightful memories Miss Rundle will have of the great Republic when she returns home. What are needed in the nursing profession are travelling scholarships. A change of environment is the finest form of education possible. There would not be an anti-registrationist left in this Kingdom if every nurse were given the opportunity of travel, and of coming into touch with more liberal minds than her own, instead of so often adopting worn-out shibboleths. As a class we suffer much from insular intolerance, not to add conceit. It is the result of revolving in narrow circles.

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