

loud and long, and the child cannot be comforted.

A child who moves its head from side to side, and sobs and wails with every now and then a sudden sharp shriek, may have its brain affected—such a cry is suggestive of tubercular meningitis.

A child will often be restless, irritable, and awake with a scream when any serious illness is impending, while *absence* of crying may be indicative of serious disease or exhaustion.

The cry is often hoarse in an infant from inherited syphilis, and hoarse in an older child suffering from laryngitis.

In temper the crying is loud, the child stiffens itself, and kicks vigorously.

There is also the irritable cry of general uneasiness, which may generally be quieted by soothing treatment.

It is difficult to distinguish the cry of the newly-born for the first few weeks.

Miss F. Sheppard writes:—

Crying is the infant's only method of expressing all its disagreeable sensations.

If the baby's cries are piercing and sharp suspect earache; if very piercing shrieks, the child is probably going in for meningitis.

A baby may scream very violently and draw up its legs with flatulence or griping pains.

Be sure to find out the cause and examine all its food, see to the cleanliness of every vessel used, and if necessary call on the milkman and see the cans that the milk is placed in.

Miss Emily Marshall reminds us that a baby announces its advent into the world by a cry, or, if not, steps are speedily taken to make it cry so that its lungs may be well inflated. Also that nervous infants cry with temper, and these highly sensitive babies will almost stop breathing sometimes. They often cry out suddenly if startled, a sneeze, for instance, may frighten a baby. "There is," she says, "so much to write about a baby's cries I could go on almost indefinitely, but the practical part even now comes easiest to me, and if baby cried I should soon find out *why*."

Mrs. E. F. Noakes writes:—

I could describe many cries if only you could go through my garden of babies to hear them.

THE FEBRUARY PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

The announcements as to the Prize Competitions for February will be found on page 98 of this issue under the heading of Notices. We hope that our readers will find the new series as interesting as they evidently found the last.

How to Succeed as a Private Nurse.

(Continued from page 66.)

Miss Catherine Lade writes:—

You must adapt yourself at once to the circumstances of the family you are with. It is the power of adapting oneself that makes largely for the success of the private nurse. Do everything in your power to make your patient comfortable and alleviate pain. Be cheerful and sympathetic and win the confidence of your patient, and you will invariably win kindness, consideration, and even affection in return, and grateful thanks for service rendered. Be loyal to the doctor, and carry out his instructions faithfully.

Miss Susan Mayfield writes:—

Be careful about appearances, but in nothing be smart. The smart nurse may suit the unobservant, but she rasps and becomes a bore. Always appear unruffled, and keep your hands well cared for, surgically clean, soft, supple, and skilful. There is something in the healing touch, but that, of course, emanates from the brain centres. The healing touch is a fine sympathy flowing direct from its well springs.

Miss E. M. Dickson says wisely:—

The nurse should always give way to the patient in things which do not matter. This will help greatly in getting her way where it is really for the patient's good. . . Reasonable consideration for the servants will go far to help to make a private nurse successful. Great saving of trouble to them can be effected by a little forethought.

A nurse will be wise to cultivate a healthy appetite for anything wholesome, as food in different houses varies in time, quality, and quantity, and she must not upset the usual routine of the house.

A nurse must spare no pains to keep her knowledge up to date. She will, of course, be a constant and thorough reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, from which she will learn much, not omitting to read the advertisements, for she will thus get to know of new nursing requisites put upon the market for her own and the patient's use.

She will take advantage of the libraries of various nursing societies, and buy the best text books she can afford. Neither should she miss the cultivation of her mind by attending health and nursing lectures, and the various exhibitions. Our nurse will also read the daily paper, and such books as time and opportunity offer,

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