

This is to degrade the treatment to the level of quackery, and to bring it into inevitable disrepute. Many factors enter into successful treatment: the purity of the sea-water which is procured from the deep ocean, its freshness, its right dilution, and the correct dose for each patient, which needs skill and experience to determine. The administration of the dose must also be skilfully performed.

A needle, or trocar, just sterilized to red heat in the flame of a spirit lamp, might easily, if not allowed to cool sufficiently, cause injury and sloughing when thrust into the tender tissues of an infant; infection might enter through the puncture, if not carefully sealed, and blood poisoning result, but in careful hands it seems as if in "isotonic plasma" a new remedial agent of great value has been brought to light, and the work done, and results obtained, at the Quinton Polyclinic will be watched with great interest.

In the short time that the clinic has been open its fame has spread far and wide, and whatever time of day one goes there one meets on the stairs a procession of mothers carrying white-faced and manifestly very sick babies, so that it has become apparent to the authorities that in-patient as well as out-patient treatment is necessary. An airy flat on the opposite side of the street has therefore been secured, some forty cots and stretchers for the mothers who wish to stay the night with their babies provided, and here, between the injections, the babies may rest and receive careful attention from trained nurses and voluntary workers, instead of having to be carried backwards and forwards to their own homes. This creche, with its furnishings, has been practically provided within twenty-four hours, and must have entailed much hard work, but there is no doubt that the babies will be the gainers. It remains to be seen whether, when the hot weather terminates, the present rush for treatment will become less acute. If not it cannot be long before the clinic is faced by the problem of having to find a larger home. Already its resources are strained to cope with the constant stream of patients, and as every mother who attends is enthusiastic as to the benefit received by her baby, it is probable that the attendances will be doubled and quadrupled within a short time.

Our illustrations, which we are able to publish by the kindness of the President of the Quinton Polyclinic, speak for themselves, and demonstrate that the benefits of isotonic plasma are not confined to epidemic diarrhoea.

One word of thanks must be added for the courtesy extended by the staff of the Polyclinic to all who visit it.

A NIGHT'S VIGIL.

BY A PRIVATE NURSE.

I am a private nurse, not attached to any hospital or private nursing institution, and I think the following account of an experience I once had when at a case may be of interest to the readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

I had been engaged for some days previously to relieve a nurse in the south of England, who was taking her holiday. Another nurse was on day duty. On arriving at my destination for night duty, before I was really ready and had removed my outdoor attire, my patient's wife rushed into the room and wished to take me at once to see her husband, who was suffering from rheumatism and a very weak heart. He weighed 20 stone or more and was breathing very badly and seemed in a collapsed condition, so that we had to resort to oxygen and other restoratives frequently.

Eventually the end came suddenly when the male nurse was on duty. It was very sad, as the poor wife was constantly with her sick husband, ministering to his wants as often as she was allowed, and it was during her absence from the room for a few minutes that his spirit was suddenly called away.

I was aroused by a dreadful scream from the bereaved wife when told by the nurse on duty that her husband had passed away. The medical man was telephoned for, and arrived quickly on the scene, but he could only confirm the sad fact that the patient had passed away.

I performed the last offices for my departed patient, assisted by the other nurse, and then, after clearing up, I was looking forward to a night in bed when the widow said to me: "Oh, nurse, you must go on night duty as usual to-night. I cannot have him suddenly left after receiving so much attention day and night. I want you to stay with him in case he might wake up; you can go to bed at 4 o'clock, directly it is daylight."

I therefore went on duty at 10 p.m. for my night's vigil. Imagine what it was to one's nerves to pass alone through a night of this description. However, a trained nurse is not supposed to possess any nerves. I must own it was very awe-inspiring to remain there alone all those hours, after the spirit had departed from the body. Still, we trained nurses must be ready and willing to do all things.

The widow was sweet enough to say next day how selfish she was to ask me to do such a thing, and that she would have tried to sit

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