

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN—HAS CHRIST AN ANSWER?

At the Lecture on "The problem of pain—has Christ an answer?" given on Wednesday evening, November 8th, at University Hall, Gordon Square, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, M.S., F.R.C.S., was the chairman. In his opening remarks he dwelt upon the great protective helpful influence often exerted by pain, in making the patient careful not to further extend his injuries by movement and carelessness; and, conversely, on the tragedy which often results from the absence of pain, when the patient is unaware of the seriousness of his disease.

The lecturer, the Rev. Paul Walde, spoke first of reasonable pain, such as that caused by weariness or hunger, and showed how Christ accepted such. He then showed how man is a creature of more than one environment, and often he can only adapt himself to the higher environment by sacrificing the lower; and thus spiritual gain may entail physical loss. The most valuable asset in the world is character, and often pain is a real factor in the growth of a patient's character, indeed often it seems the only way to turn a man to spiritual things. Turning then to the more difficult problems of pain the lecturer pointed out (1) that we are still "in the middle of a process," and cannot fully see its results; (2) that the sufferings of the innocent often bring immense good to those around them in teaching patience, chivalry, gentleness; it was as such that Christ accepted His sufferings and cross; (3) that in the face of much of the problem Christ is silent; and the real solution is not that He *has* an answer, but that He *is* the answer to the problem by His life; and the more we live in His supreme companionship, the more we shall realise the sufficiency of this answer.

THE AFTER-CARE OF OUT-PATIENTS.

We have been greatly pleased to receive the following letter from a foreign subscriber:—"Could you get me a good pattern for the adenoid mask? I am anxious to see how it is prepared. I was very much interested in your paper, which I read in September, during my holiday, and as soon as I got back decided to reform our bad traditions. Ever since adenoids have been operated upon here, our children have been allowed to go away immediately. When I came here it was thus arranged, but, if possible, I induce the family to bring the little patient here on Sunday to be operated

upon on Monday, and kept here till Thursday. We have several specialists who did not seem concerned about these operations. At the town hospital, and all the Clinics, these operations are performed on out-patients without any after-care. A paper is given to the family, with instructions about what has to be done. I see that in English instructions, in case of hæmorrhage, the patient is advised to lay down his head low. But here we keep these patients almost sitting in bed, lying on one side so that any blood will flow into the mouth instead of the stomach, which might be unperceived.

"You will be glad to hear that my committee to whom I spoke was much interested in this question, and I have been authorised to keep the little out-patients from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. laid on beds, with hot water bottles to feet, and mouth washes, and iced milk. The mothers have been most grateful, for they usually were frightened at the responsibility. So you see your seeds have been carried very far by the wind bird, and have found a good soil in which to grow. But we want the mask now!"

A pattern of Miss Hutchinson's mask has, of course, been forwarded with pleasure, and will no doubt be adopted by others as well as the able Directrice, who has so soon reformed the care of out-patients in the hospital fortunately under her care.

POST-GRADUATE LECTURES AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

Miss A. Park gave her second Post-graduate Lecture in the Nurses' Home on Tuesday, Nov. 7th, on "Modern Nursing Methods in the Wards." Miss Park stated that she had found the methods now used in the Wards very different to what they were six or eight years ago, and proceeded to describe post-operative treatment, the treatment of post-operative shock by saline infusions, the treatment of baths, and the nursing treatment of children suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting. The question of diet was fully gone into, and the Lecturer showed what a great difference there is now to what it was a few years ago. The special treatment used by Mr. Arbuthnot Lane for patients undergoing operation for "short circuit" or colectomy was described, and the special abdominal support worn by these patients, shown.

At the end of the lecture the various apparatus now used was shown, and much interest was taken in the Killian Tubes, which are used for examination and treatment of diseases of the Œsophagus, Trachea, and Larynx; the Saline Indicator invented by Dr. Douglas Laurie, which shows the rate per hour the infusion is being given; and the Infusion Apparatus designed by Dr. Stuart Caruthers on the "Thermos" system, which guarantees the patient getting hot saline, and which has been found to be most useful in the treatment of children.

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