

THE AFTER-CARE OF ADENOIDS AND TONSIL OPERATIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to speak, now the subject is being discussed, on the operation for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.

Take this case: a little girl, aged five years, living in the country, thoroughly strong and healthy, with a perfectly healthy history on both parents' sides, was operated upon for slight adenoids; second day after the operation the doctor gave permission for the child to be taken-out in a mail cart, twenty-four hours after she was noticed by the nurse to be looking strange, and she became completely paralysed. She had many specialists to see her; some said it was due to a dirty instrument in operating, others said it was due to shock after the operation. She had a trained nurse for a year. The right leg had not recovered itself, so the parents brought her to London to be treated with Swedish massage, and when she had been under the treatment four weeks she caught diphtheria and died within four days. Now there seems a time to remove adenoids and tonsils when it's necessary, but it ought to be told to the parents that there are risks which must be faced, and I am sure no one should go out under five or six days after the operation.

Yours truly,

A CERTIFICATED NURSE.

[The poor little patient in question was the niece of our correspondent.—ED.]

THE DANGER OF USING ELECTRICAL BED-WARMERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Whilst in no way being desirous of exaggerating the danger of fire from electrical contrivances intended to minister to the comfort of modern man, I think that at this season a word of warning should be addressed to the many elderly people and invalids who are being fascinated by the handy and practical advantages of electrical bed-warmers—i.e., the substitute for the hot-water bottle, and which are intended to retain heat as long as they are attached to the local electrical supply service.

These electrical bed-warmers are extremely dangerous, as they easily ignite when kept under cover in such a manner as not to freely radiate heat—i.e., if kept tightly covered under bedclothes or the like.

I have before me the remains of one of these appliances, well devised and attractively made, recently purchased by a medical man for use of a lady. After use of about three hours on the 240-volt circuit of one of our London electrical supply companies the bed-warmer ignited the bedclothes, and it was entirely a matter of chance that the user escaped with her life, owing to the heat created by the smouldering bedclothes waking her before asphyxiation.

I have since tried several similar appliances, purchased in the open market, on a 110-volt current, and I have so far not found one that can be described as free from danger.

I trust this timely word of warning at this season may be the prevention of unnecessary deaths from fire.

Yours truly,
"CAVE."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss C. P., Bradford.—Since the campaign against Tuberculosis has become universal, we have begun to class the "Tuberculosis Nurse." To imagine you can become an expert, and successfully undertake the nursing of such a disease, by paying a few visits to a "Consumption Hospital" is nonsense. To become thoroughly qualified, and therefore a conscientious caretaker of sick people, you should enter for a term of three years' training at a general hospital, study tubercular disease as it comes to your notice in its various forms, and later gain extended experience in a hospital for Diseases of the Chest and in Sanatoria. Superficiality in nursing cannot be too earnestly condemned by those responsible for the training and education of nurses. What is required is the utmost thoroughness all the time.

Rest Cure Sister.—The great secret is to supply nourishment to the nerve cells in cases of neurasthenia and its allied conditions. A nerve nurse must therefore be an expert dietitian. Don't be satisfied with "a little knowledge of invalid cookery" if you mean to make this branch of nursing your speciality.

Nightingale Memorial.—In sending your subscription you can desire to have it placed to the account for the Statue. The Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund helps nurses who have not been able to provide for themselves, from illness or under other sad circumstances. The address is: A. Ogier Ward, Esq., M.D., 73, Cheapside, E.C.

NOTICES.

TICKETS FOR THE ISLA STEWART ORATION.

To prevent disappointment tickets required must be applied for at once, as arrangements must now be made for an increased number of seats. Tickets can be procured from the Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., by members only, of the societies affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses.

It is hoped that indoor uniform will be worn if not inconvenient, with badge and nosegay.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

November 25th.—Mention some talents, and how she should use them, that a nurse must cultivate if she wishes to be successful as a Sister of Wards.

NO CHARGE.

As we frequently receive enquiries as to the charge for the insertion of new appointments in this Journal, we beg to notify that no charge is ever made for publishing this information. We are always glad to insert such appointments, and do not consider that any journal is justified in asking payment for valuable items of news.

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