

## THE LEAGUE OF SCHOOL NURSES.

On Wednesday, February 21st, Dr. Kerr gave a lecture to the school nurses on the "Eye."

He dealt principally with diseases of the eye common to childhood.

In mentioning acute conjunctivitis of the new-born child—*Ophthalmia neonatorum*—he said that nearly all the children attending the special schools for the blind were quite blind or partially so from this disease.

One had to notice the child with half-shut lids, often a sign of Myopia, and sometimes of Trachoma.

In the latter disease it was accompanied by a dark rim. Nits were sometimes found on eyelashes, and pediculi had been found on the cornea.

The form of conjunctivitis known in the schools as "blight" or "pink eye" was very common. It could be recognised by slight redness round iris, eye watery and some flaky bits of pus. It was very rare for this disease to cause any serious trouble.

It had been found that taking away the towels was an effectual means of preventing the spread of the disease. Repeated catarrhal attacks resulted in a chronic form of granular conjunctivitis leading to red lids and falling out of eyelashes.

The condition of granular lids with the half-shut appearance might be trachoma. On the lids, chiefly the upper, are found small round bodies known as sago grains. This disease, which is contagious and difficult to cure, leads to a condition which is practically blindness. It is not very prevalent in England. In Russia and Egypt great numbers suffer from it.

When a case is found, prompt measures are taken for the child to be sent to a special home for treatment. If a child is suffering from Photophobia, ascertain the cause at once. It may be due to a foreign body, which should be removed, or to a corneal ulcer, which should be treated as soon as possible.

In speaking of wounds of the eye, Dr. Kerr said the commonest cause was a child taking a fork to undo a bootlace. The use of scissors was also frequently the cause. However small the wound, if it occurred partly on the cornea and partly on the white of the eye it was extremely serious. It meant the removal of the eyeball in most cases. If not removed, the injury would set up sympathetic ophthalmia in the sound eye, with grave results.

Another disease one came across was Interstitial Keratitis, in which the cornea had a steamy look. This was often found associated with a pegged condition of teeth—Hutchinson's teeth—and was due to congenital syphilis. It came on usually at 10 to 12 years of age. Another symptom which sometimes occurred was a form of deafness which comes on suddenly. Prompt treatment may ward it off.

For all eye complaints Boracic Lotion could be safely recommended. Never use lead lotion for a child's eye, nor for any eye where there is the slightest imperfection of cornea. The lead will penetrate, and a white mass will be the result. All the chronic forms of eye disease common to school children are due to debility.

Children removed to open-air schools speedily get well.

Dr. Kerr dealt with vision and the reasons for giving glasses.

For very bad squint more treatment than glasses was necessary. The slight operation for severing the muscle could be safely recommended.

Dr. Kerr received hearty applause at the close, and Miss Pearse thanked him on behalf of the nurses.

R. B. D.

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## CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Cleveland Street Branch of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League will be At Home at headquarters, the Cleveland Street Asylum, on March 9th from 4 to 8 p.m. We are glad to know that Miss Leigh, the President, is now convalescent after her serious illness, and hope she may continue to regain health. She has been greatly missed throughout the institution since she has been off duty.

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## A ROYAL AND PATRIOTIC WOMAN.

We regret that the Duchess of Aosta, who, under the name of Mme. Aosta, volunteered as a nurse on the outbreak of war between Italy and Turkey, is suffering from overwork. On her return to Italy from Tripoli on the hospital ship *Menfi* with the wounded, the Duchess suffered from fever, but, notwithstanding, performed her duties on the voyage with the greatest devotion. On the arrival of the vessel at Naples, this royal and patriotic woman was obliged to rest from her labours. May rest soon restore her to health.

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