

before leaving the patient's house, otherwise it is unsafe to mingle with the public. Evidence proving that an infectious disease has been conveyed by negligence is a very serious matter; damages can be claimed, or, in case of death being due to such carelessness, the person conveying infection can be charged with manslaughter. Every nurse should be acquainted with the notifiable diseases—smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, membranous croup, puerperal fevers, cholera, erysipelas, typhus, typhoid. Measles, German measles, mumps, whooping cough, chicken-pox, spotted fever and several others have recently been added, such as septic conditions of the genital tract."

Miss McDonnell points out that it is important, and sometimes overlooked by nurses, that the disinfecting bath should include sponging with a disinfectant of a definite strength. To take a bath to which a disinfectant has been added, making a solution of an unknown strength, but in any case very weak, is simply to give a false sense of security.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

No one has mentioned the important point that the nurse on leaving an infectious case should go into quarantine until the incubation period of the infectious disease which she has been attending is over. Although it may be unlikely that she should develop the disease, yet the possibility exists, and she would rightly be blamed if she undertook another case and was attacked in a private house, in which illness was already present, with a serious infectious complaint.

For this reason it is customary for private nursing co-operations and institutions to charge a disinfecting fee, to cover the expenses of the nurse while abstaining from work in the public interest. While the fee charged does not compensate her for those she would be earning if at work, being calculated to do little more than defray the expense of board and lodging, the higher fees earned while nursing an infectious case must be taken into consideration.

After attending a case of puerperal fever the Central Midwives Board has laid down the rule that the period of quarantine should not be longer than that which suffices for the thorough disinfection of the midwife, and the same, of course, applies to nurses. The Board mentions 24 hours as the usual period.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How would you care for the dead, in a hospital, from the hour of death until the corpse is removed from the mortuary?

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Committee was held on March 9th, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the chair, and fourteen members of the Committee attended, including the Hon. Organizing Secretary, Miss Mollett, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. Breay. It was reported that the following ladies had already consented to form the Committee:—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss B. Cutler, Miss Mollett, Miss E. B. Kingsford, and Miss M. S. Riddell, general hospital nurses; Miss Barton, Miss Elma Smith, Miss A. Smith, Poor Law nurses; Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Böge, Miss Marsters, district nurses; Miss L. A. Morgan, fever nurses; Miss S. Cartwright, Miss E. M. Waind, Miss Fowler, and Miss B. Kent, private nurses; Miss H. L. Pearse, school nurses; Miss E. L. C. Eden, and Miss I. C. Keogh, President Irish Nurses' Association. Miss Heather-Bigg, it was to be regretted, was too ill to attend to any business at present. A sum of £44 13s. 6d. has been donated or promised for preliminary expenses, but not a penny had been received in response to the public appeal.

Miss Mollett presented an outline of draft suggestions for the organization of a Sick Nurses' Friendly Society, which was discussed clause by clause, amended, and adopted.

Upon the suggestion of the Chairman the words "United Kingdom" were added to the title, as in reply to inquiry from the National Health Insurance Joint Committee it was stated that "it was quite open to an Approved Society to admit Scottish, Irish, and Welsh nurses for the purposes of the Act. The Act does, however, require that the members of a Society resident in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales respectively shall be treated for the purposes of valuations, surpluses, deficiencies, and transfers as if they formed separate Societies. This means that separate accounts will be required to be kept in respect of the members resident in each such part of the United Kingdom, the contributions of English members being credited to the Society in the English National Insurance Fund; of the Scottish members in the Scottish Fund; and similarly with regard to the Irish and Welsh members; and that the benefits are to be paid out of the separate funds. There is no reason, however, why the Society should not administer the affairs of the whole of the members of the Society in accordance with its existing machinery."

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