

## POISONS.

Mr. William Taylor, F.R.C.S.I., who recently lectured to the Irish Nurses' Association on "Poisons," spoke, in substance, as follows:—

Poisons may, widely speaking, be divided into two groups, Acids and Alkalis, and the general treatment for acid poisoning is to administer an alkali; and for alkali poisoning to give an acid.

1. Carbolic acid may be taken as a distinctive poison. The antidote is alcohol in some form such as whiskey or even methylated spirit, the object being to render the acid inert. Then if possible the stomach should be washed out; if impossible, give a hypodermic of Apomorphinæ Hyd. to make the patient vomit.

2. Oxalic acid: Antidote, lime in any form, even if only knocked off the wall or ceiling.

3. Phosphorus poisoning: This is a very common form of poisoning with children, as they so often suck the tops of matches, etc. The symptoms are intense thirst, strong smell of garlic off breath, severe colic, collapse before death. Antidote, *old* turpentine. Avoid oils of any kind, as oil makes the poison more active. Wash out the stomach with Condy's Fluid or Sanitas.

3. Laburnum seeds: Give an emetic, then dose of oil to thoroughly clear the intestines, and opium to relieve pain.

4. Shell fish poisoning: Same treatment as Laburnum, but also give an astringent after emetic.

5. Ptomaine poisoning from decomposed food or fruit or tinned meats, etc.: Same treatment, as also for fungus poisoning.

6. Corrosive Sublimate: Antidote, eggs or a quantity of milk if eggs are not handy; give emetic and wash out stomach.

7. Opium and morphia poisoning: Keep patient roused, allow him plenty of fresh air, and give strong coffee, which is made much more effective by the addition of a few grains of pure caffeine. Also give emetic or hypodermic of apomorphine. If opium has been taken, a strong smell of it can be detected from breath; if morphia, no smell, but the other symptoms will be the same.

8. Chloral Hydrate: Antidote is strychnine, also an emetic, or wash out stomach.

9. Strychnine: The antidote is Chl. Hyd.

10. Arsenic (acute): Antidote, white of eggs or quantity of milk.

Arsenic (chronic): See that the patient gets no food or medicine except what is prepared specially by the nurse or doctor, get rid of

as much of the arsenic in the stomach as possible, and the patient will do well.

11. Prussic acid: This is such a deadly poison and acts so quickly that it is rarely anyone is saved.

12. Lead: Hot stupes to relieve colic pains, also injection of morphia; small doses of Iod. Pot. combined with Sulph. Mag. or Sulph. Sod. Keep patient in bed and away from the occupation which has caused the illness.

Poisoning may also come from the use of iodoform, carbolic acid, etc., etc., in dressing wounds, but can easily be controlled by stopping the use of the particular dressing. For gas poisoning give plenty of fresh air, oxygen and artificial respiration if necessary.

The emetics generally used are—

Mustard and hot water.

Strong salt and water.

Greasy water.

Ordinary lukewarm water.

Ten grs. sulph. of copper in warm water.

Hyppo wine for children, one teaspoonful every five minutes.

$\frac{1}{4}$ gr. Apomorphinæ generally acts in three minutes.

## THE LEAGUE OF SCHOOL NURSES.



Dr. Sikes' lecture on the "Legal Aspect of School Nursing" on December 13th was largely attended. He gave an account of the progress of the work of the medical and nursing department (education) since its inception.

The Acts of Parliament which affect the work of the school nurse were explained. Among other subjects Dr. Sikes spoke of the cases of favus which had had to be dealt with—79 in one part of London alone; of the opening of a school for children suffering from the disease, and how with X-ray treatment and supervision the children were soon cured and the school closed. Microscopic slides were shown illustrating varieties of favus and ringworm.

"The Infectious Diseases of the School Child" was the subject of Dr. Brincker's lecture on December 20th. There was not such a good attendance as at previous lectures owing to the wet weather. Dr. Brincker touched on all the infectious diseases in turn, and the lecture proved exceedingly interesting. Charts indicating the rise and fall of some of the notifiable diseases during several years

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)