

when it will be softened and easily removed; or, if possible, immerse the patient, or injured part, in a boracic bath at a temperature of 100 deg. Fahr., when the burnt clothes are floated off the surface and it is cleansed and collapse relieved.

Miss Isobel Helm points out that a burn on the chest or abdomen is always considered more serious than one of equal magnitude and greater depth on a limb, owing to the close proximity of the underlying vital organs.

Miss Simpson who believes in the immersion of a badly burnt child in a boric bath, advocates that in the case of an older person, where it would be too difficult to place the patient in a bath, he should be rolled in an oiled sheet and the clothes soaked off by the application of sterilised olive oil. The great thing to guard against is to keep the parts from being exposed more than is absolutely necessary, as there is great danger of septic poisoning.

Miss Streeter gives as a reason for cutting the clothing up the seams that it may be stitched up later on, thus showing due consideration for the patient's property. She advocates keeping the patient under warm blankets, with several hot bottles, only uncovering the particular part which is receiving attention, and says that if a large amount of dirt is present, or the clothes obstinately adhere, the part may have to be immersed in a warm boracic bath. She adds:—"Especially if the patient is a child, try to soothe it and prevent it from getting more frightened than it is already. A patient gently treated in the first place will usually be a more satisfactory case later on."

Miss Gibert writes that the patient must be carefully but quickly examined to ascertain the general condition, amount of collapse, extent of burns, &c., before attempting to undress him, and, if necessary, must be allowed perfect rest before beginning, though it is advisable to remove all clothing as speedily and carefully as possible.

The undressing will of necessity prove a most painful process, both to operator and patient, and on the doctor's orders a hypodermic injection of morphia, or tincture of opium is sometimes given to allay pain and prevent restlessness.

Much care will be required to ensure no burnt tissue is torn away with the clothes, and in some cases this may be impossible. The scorched surface should be powdered with boric acid, bicarbonate of soda, or even starch and flour, then wrapped in wadding to prevent the access of air—a most important point.

The burnt area should be rapidly covered with some prescribed dressing, as picric solution

or aluminium acetate—both of which only require changing every two days, a great advantage in what must always be an intensely painful process—and then covered with wool firmly but gently bandaged on. Throughout the operation of undressing a strict watch must be kept by the nurse on the pulse, colour and respiration.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the principal points to be borne in mind when isolating a patient in a private house?

AN ABSOLUTE MISTAKE.

At the Annual Meeting of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League Mr. Douglas J. Pennant, Hon. Secretary of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, delivered an address on "The National Insurance Bill and how it would affect Nurses," at which he is reported in the Journal of the League to have stated:—

A Nurses' Friendly Society, in connection with the State Registration of Nurses, has also been advocated, but people must remember that the object of this Society is to set up, in some form or other, a minimum standard of training, and to enforce discipline. Now an approved Society is a voluntary body, consisting of those who desire to link themselves together for the purpose of insuring themselves and taking the benefits conjointly in this Bill. Such a Society undertakes to give certain benefits for certain payments, and there is the risk that the Society may not be able to meet its claims, and it would, therefore, be inadvisable that such a Society as that for the State Registration of Nurses should be mixed up with an approved Society, which, after all, would have nothing to do with the standard of nursing. All who have studied the Bill, in relation to approved Societies, have been impressed with the great importance of such a Society being shaped on practical lines, as it must play a very important part in the lives of Nurses.

Mr. Pennant has been misinformed, for there is absolutely no foundation whatever for this statement. The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was founded in 1902 "To obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal registration of trained nurses." This is the sole object for which it has worked and will continue to work.

The Society has never had the National Insurance Act under consideration, nor has it ever been suggested that it should form an Approved Friendly Society for Nurses.

The Nurses' Protection Committee has acted throughout in the interests of trained nurses in connection with the National Insurance Act.

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