

whatever, but that, feeling secure in the protection afforded by compulsory re-vaccination, they actually nursed cases of small pox in the ordinary wards of the general hospitals side by side with those suffering from other medical diseases! No case of infection with small pox could be discovered.

In this country we have, of course, a "conscience clause" which exempts from infantile vaccination any child whose parents conscientiously believe that vaccination would be prejudicial to its health. Now, the effect of vaccination is not a matter of conscience, but of statistics, and these tend all the other way. Moreover, by this clause a parent is allowed not only to run the risk of small pox as regards his own child, but also to assist in the infection of others whenever small pox is prevalent! Every unvaccinated child is really a danger to the community.

The treatment of small pox is not very satisfactory. All patients should be removed to hospital, as it is practically impossible to isolate them satisfactorily at home so long as we have a partially unvaccinated population. There is no specific for the disease, but we treat symptoms as they occur on the usual general lines. It is best to cover the face and hands, when the eruption is at all profuse, with lint soaked in a mild antiseptic lotion containing glycerine, and the whole body should be anointed with oil in order to prevent dissemination of infective matter through the air. If the temperature be high, cool baths are useful, and sedatives may be required to allay restlessness and delirium. There is no evidence that pitting can be prevented, or modified by treatment, as this depends simply on the depth of the pustules, which cannot be controlled.

I have not touched on the question of the diagnosis of small pox, as this is hardly within the compass of this type of paper; but, in the time of an epidemic, accurate diagnosis is essential for the public safety, as almost all the spreading takes place from unrecognized cases. It is usual at these times to make chicken pox (a disease with which small pox is most likely to be confused) a notifiable disease in order that the public health authorities may have the opportunity of tracing all probable sources of infection.

Nurses have many opportunities of explaining to those who do not understand the true nature of vaccination, its importance and benefits, and can do much to instil the belief that, with the precautions taken at the present day, the risks of the past are non-existent.

## LIVING PICTURES AT COLOGNE.

Our reproductions of the living pictures of the Cologne Pageant, designed by Frl. Alexe Altenkirch, cannot fail to give pleasure to our readers, both those who saw the originals, and those who did not have the good fortune to be present in the Gürzenich on August 4th, but who, we know, desire to get some impression of these wonderful pictures, which we described in detail in our issue of August 10th.

In No. 1 St. Elizabeth of Hungary (representing a Royal nurse, in religion, of the thirteenth century) was depicted by Frl. Klein as a figure carved in wood. No. 2 presented the Founders of the Revilien Hospital at Cologne (living in the middle of the fifteenth century)—Daman von Löwen, his wife Mechtild, and their daughter. In the forefront were two Béguines, members of the Order by which the hospital was nursed. The Béguines may be regarded as typical of nurses living in the world, as, although they live in communities, they have maintained their individual freedom.

No. 3 represented a dead warrior as a bronze relief (date 1813), supported by a military nurse and surrounded by sorrowing comrades; and No. 4, Modern Nursing, showed the Triumph of Hygeia. Hygeia was presented by Frau Dr. Tierbach as a marble statue. Holding a laurel wreath before her were graduates from America. Then the nurses of all ages ascended the platform, each offering to Hygeia a rose, and placing it in a bowl before her until it was filled with these fragrant trophies. Conspicuous amongst the modern nurses were the representatives of English Leagues with their banners. On the right (from left to right) the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses (Miss E. M. Hunter), the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League (Miss E. Barton), the Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon Branch, Nurses' League (Miss Comber), the Irish Nurses' Association (Miss A. Carson Rae), and the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League (Miss Macfarlane).

On the left of Hygeia (from right to left) were the banners of the League of St. John's House Nurses (Miss M. Burr), the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League (Miss R. Ferguson), the Royal South Hants Nurses' League (Miss A. Lee-Smith), and the League of School Nurses (Miss Downing).

Amongst the beautiful representations of nurses of bygone days Queen Philippa of Hainault (Mrs. Manson) and Alyke von Tumppling (1380 A.D.), personated by her namesake and descendant, were specially noticeable.

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