

presents a milky white appearance. Cataract in children is comparatively rare, and the opacity is less dense than in the case of an adult. The cataract may be partial or complete. The treatment in these cases is to dissolve the lens. This is done by opening the capsule which surrounds the lens, thereby allowing the aqueous humour to reach it, and this has the power of gradually dissolving the lens.

The general treatment for cataract is to extract the lens. After this has been done it is necessary for the patient to use a spectacle lens to supply the deficiency."

Miss J. Gilchrist describes cataract as a disorder of the eye causing opacity of the crystalline lens, which, if not removed, results in blindness. When the hardening process is complete, the lens presenting a milky white appearance, the cataract is termed ripe, and may be extracted wholly by the operation of iridectomy. This form is frequently met with in "senile" cataract occurring in old age. In young persons, or when the cataract does not ripen and become solid, the process of "needling" is performed to bring about gradual dispersion.

Miss O'Donaghue gives the following method for preparing the patient:—

Prepare the patient by giving him an aperient the night before the operation. Then when the patient is in bed shave the eyebrow, if necessary, and then gently irrigate the eye with boracic lotion, or 1 in 5,000 perchloride of mercury, and clean the outer eyelid and its surrounding with ether soap, and then pad both eyes with sterile pads moistened in 1 in 5,000 perchloride lotion, and apply a double eye-bandage. On the morning of operation change the pad and irrigate the eye and its surrounding with perchloride 1 in 5,000 as before, and then half-hour before the operation is booked, change the pads again and irrigate. To cocaineise the eye let the patient throw his head well back, and the nurse, standing in front of patient, slightly draws down the lower lid and drops into the socket thus formed one drop of cocaine, and repeats this until the patient's eye is anæsthetised; generally about 10 or 15 drops applied during ten minutes suffices. A 4-per-cent. solution of cocaine is generally used, and the patient meanwhile gently keeps his eyes closed. To test the anæsthesia of the eye, just gently pass a sterile swab over the cornea, and the patient will tell you if he feels it or not.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What would you consider an efficient curriculum for the training of a midwife?

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, at its meeting at Oxford last week, and unanimously agreed, that the National Council of Nurses be accorded two representatives instead of one. Miss B. Cutler is at present the one representative.

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Business Meeting of members of the above Society was held in Aberdeen on Saturday, the 28th ult. The President, Miss Alexander, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of Northern members.

The annual report and statement of accounts were submitted by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. While the former recounts a useful and successful year as regards work, the latter shows a satisfactory balance in hand. Both were unanimously adopted.

Office bearers and members of Council for the current year were elected as follows:—President, Miss Alexander, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley; Vice-Presidents, Miss Boyd, Aberdeen Eye Institution; Miss Tod, County Hospital, Ayr; and Miss McDougall, the Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Stevenson; members of Council, Miss Lyon, Miss Macleod, and Miss Donald.

A resolution to the effect that the Society, in supporting the State Registration of Trained Nurses, is of opinion that delay in the passing of a Registration Act is detrimental to the interests of British nurses at home and abroad, was carried *nem. con.*

Several questions of interest, and propositions of importance to nurses, were under consideration by the meeting.

A number of members have adopted the badge of the Society, which is St. Andrew's Cross in dim silver, with the monogram S.S.T.N. in highly polished letters.

THE NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

The Central Secretary of the Nurses' Social Union has pleasure in announcing that Miss Gibson (late Matron, Birmingham Infirmary) has most kindly consented to act as Hon. Organizer to the London Division of the Union, Miss Egerstorff, who has generously given her services in the capacity hitherto, having found herself compelled to resign owing to increase of work. Miss Gibson's address is 32, Culmington Road, Ealing.

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