

MEDICAL MATTERS.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT OF NAUSEA.

Dr. F. L. Barnes, of Texas, believes, says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, that the very best treatment for chloroform and ether nausea and vomiting is plenty of fresh air; it is not only essential that fresh air should be supplied in large volume, but it should be kept moving, in order that the nauseating odours of the exhalations may be removed rapidly. His observation has this history:—A great many negroes for whom there is no hospital accommodation come to his associates and himself for operations. Originally they had an operating room and beds in connection with their office, but it soon became such a nuisance to have this class of patient continually around the office that they hit on the expedient of having them carried immediately from the operating room to their boarding places. Out of a great many cases handled in this manner, they have never had a single mishap, or a single bad symptom follow the practice. They have never known one of these patients to vomit after being carried out in the open air, and they are almost never nauseated. The distance from the operating room to the places to which these patients have been conveyed have varied from one-fourth of a mile to two and one-half miles. Immediately upon the completion of the operation, the patient is placed on a cot, wrapped in blankets, with the face always exposed to the open air, and external heat applied. The cot is then placed in a waggon or hack, and driven slowly to the boarding place. If the patient is awake and nauseated when the hack arrives at its destination, they direct that the cot be not carried into the house until the nausea passes off; they also direct that as few attendants as possible be about the patient. They have frequently observed that when they have been a little slow in getting patients out of the operating room, and they later become nauseated as a result, they will immediately become quiet and drop into a peaceful sleep as soon as they are carried into the open air and started on their journey.

We are very slow to learn that the best of gifts which we can have are those which are free to all—sunlight, fresh air, and pure water. We pay highly for artificial light, shut ourselves into close rooms and breathe impure air, and drink costly and artificial drinks. The instance given above once more proves the principle that Mother Nature knows best, and that we cannot keep too closely to her teachings.

CLINICAL NOTES ON SOME COMMON AILMENTS.

By A. KNYVETT GORDON, M.B. Cantab.

HYSTERIA.

In the last two papers we saw that Neurasthenia was due to exhaustion of nervous force, so that the nerve centres in the brain soon became tired, and therefore irritable. We will now study very briefly—for to describe the condition adequately would take a whole volume—the disease known as hysteria. I strongly recommend anyone who has the patience to read this article, and is then anxious to know more about the subject, to read it up in any large text book of medicine; the small ones are mostly written for examination purposes, and are usually not very intelligible to those who have no very extensive previous acquaintance with the subject.

We will go back for a moment to our analogy of the big shop, and we will suppose that the head of the firm, though not in the least overworked or tired this time, has a fit of perversity.

Ordinarily, in deciding what orders to give to his subordinate departments, he would be guided by information derived from such sources as to the price of materials, the extent of the demand for the things his firm dealt in, and so on; reports of this kind would reach him not only from the subordinate departments, but from outside sources, and he would weigh these all up carefully before issuing any orders.

But we will suppose that he suddenly alters his plans, and instead of proceeding along these well recognised lines, he takes the views of the nearest crossing sweeper, for instance, on the price of materials, or puts the names of the things he wants to order into a hat, and takes whatever happens to tumble out of it when it is shaken. What will be the result? Instead of telephoning intelligent orders to his subordinate departments, he will issue such ridiculous directions as might result in the total stoppage of one section, while another might literally run riot. In an extreme case, he—being guided by no logical reasoning—might tell the people in the boot department, for instance, to go out and drive the motor delivery vans, and so on; the result might be either total inaction in the affected area, or wild overaction in the attempt to carry out his misguided orders.

Now this—very roughly—is what happens in hysteria. There is no nerve weakness to speak of—though this sometimes appears later as a complication—but there will be great over-

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