

erythematous; then vesicles form which may go on to ulcers.

Herpes Facialis is a localised affection, usually about the angle of the mouth, frequently seen after pneumonia.

Dermatitis is a chronic skin disease; erythema, vesicles, and bullæ are the principal lesions, accompanied by itching, and of a polymorphous, recurrent character.

Syphilis may cause destructive ulceration of the skin on any part of the body. In congenitally syphilitic infants a coppery coloured erythematous rash on the buttock is very characteristic.

Psoriasis is a common and important skin disease. Dry, silvery scales develop on an inflamed base; the scales are adherent, and bleeding may occur on their removal. Itching is usually not at all severe.

Lupus, a chronic and disfiguring disease sometimes regarded as of tuberculous or syphilitic origin. It usually starts by small red spots, which coalesce, become scaly, and later ulcerative.

Ringworm, *Scabies*, and *Favus* are parasitic diseases of the skin, the characteristics of which are well known to every nurse.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention: Miss H. Scott, Miss Emily Marshall, Miss B. Pullen, Miss M. Robinson, Miss J. Phillips, Miss Macintyre, Miss O'Brien, Miss Mabel Spencer, and Miss J. van Schermbeek.

Mrs. Marshall writes:—*Erysipelas* is an acute inflammatory disease of the skin, attended with fever and prostration. The skin appears swollen, red, and shiny, and burns and is tender to the touch. It is most common of the head and face, and spreads rapidly. In some cases, called *Erysipelas migrans*, the eruption covers much of the surface of the body. It is justly dreaded by surgeons, and especially in hospitals, as it spreads from one patient to another, being so infectious that the whole building may have to be abandoned for fumigation. Thanks to Lord Lister and antiseptic precautions, very few cases are reported in these days.

Jaundice.—A marked staining of the skin is a characteristic feature of this disease. The bile, a yellow or greenish-yellow fluid from the liver, gets into the blood and circulation, and the skin is saffron colour in consequence.

Miss Scott states that the skin is not merely a membrane or covering: it is an organ, and made up of more than one kind of tissue, and is called the "cutaneous system," for each part has its own special duty to perform. It is

divided into two main portions (1) the epidermis, beneath which is (2) the "cutis or true skin." As one of the organs of the body, it has several important functions to perform: (1) it acts as a protective covering, (2) to secrete the sweat, (3) to regulate the temperature of the body, (4) to do duty as an organ of touch. The sweat is the principal secretion of the skin; it is both visible and invisible. The sweat glands are always leaking in a healthy person, even although no actual moisture is obvious. It has normally an acid reaction, and contains common and other salts, and a trace of urea. The amount of sweat is perceptibly increased in hot weather, and the reverse condition prevails in cold weather. Their action may be excessive, or deficient. The excretory function of the skin is constantly being made use of in medicine.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Give routine nursing precautions to prevent post-operative pneumonia.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

How fair is San Francisco Bay
When golden stars consort and when
The moon pours silver paths for men,
And care walks by the other way!
Huge ships, black-bellied, lay below
Broad, yellow flags from silken China.

Round, blood-red banners from Nippon,
Like to her sun at sudden dawn—
Brave battleships as white as snow,
With bannered stars tossed to the wind,
Warm as kiss when love is kind.

—Joaquin Miller.

Early in June, 1915, the nationally organised nurses of the world propose to foregather for their Triennial International Congress at San Francisco. One of the most important features of the Exposition will be the Conferences of the great thinkers and workers of all nations along lines of industry, science, and education who will meet there, and only such individual Congresses will be included in the series as are considered worthy from their nature to be placed on a national and international plane. The recognition, therefore, by the Exposition Authorities of our International Council of Nurses, places it at once amongst the leading associations of thinkers and workers helping forward the civilisation of the world. Such

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