

of these means are—To avoid chill after a pack or immersion; to have ready at hand stimulants, and hypodermic syringe in case of collapse; to accurately watch the temperature by means of a reliable thermometer, both the patient's temperature, and that of the bath or application.

The patient may also be kept in a favourable condition as to control of temperature: by being in a cool airy room; the bedclothes light though warm; the tone of the skin improved by thorough washing with soap and water; the bowels clear and in good condition; diuresis increased by copious fluid drinks of lemon, orange, or plain cold water.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss F. Sheppard, Miss F. Jenkins, Mrs. F. Dickson, Miss M. C. Sinzinex, Miss M. D. Hunter, Miss A. L. Clarkson, Miss M. O'Brien, Miss J. Robertson.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How would you feed, and what means would you take to relieve a patient with an acute attack of indigestion?

## VENEREAL DISEASE.\*

### THE BLACK PLAGUE.

By the HON. ALBINIA BRODRICK.

The cult of the body is a present-day craze—the cult, that is, of the body-surface. Beyond this worship of the external, lies the ever-increasing softness and love of pleasure, the self-indulgence and the need of smooth things and flowery ways which, carried to their logical outcome spell the ending of the race, the extinction of the nation. No one knows it better than the members of that profession to which I count it an honour to belong. Science, on the other hand, caring nothing for externals, digs deep into causes, knowing well that if the root be sound, so will the plant be, and seeks Truth not for the sake of the Truth alone, but as the sole foundation upon which can be built up the superstructure of knowledge, which is power.

We, Nurses, are the handmaids of Science, that is, of a true knowledge of Nature and of the laws of Nature, which are the laws of God. And if Science be a seeking for Truth and we the handmaids of Science, it behoves us to recognize Truth when we find it, simply and

\* Read at the Nursing Conference, Dublin, June 4th, 1913.

fearlessly, to accustom ourselves to think courageously about that aspect of the Truth with which it is the office of our profession to deal, the prevention of disease and death, the causes of disease, and their uprooting, the laws of health, and for that purpose, of morality as the foundation of health, and as worthy handmaidens of so grand a mistress to be diligent workers in her service.

For us, the time has gone past to be afraid or ashamed of calling things by their own names, or of avoiding a scientific subject, because the outside world has called it ugly. You and I in the course of our professional careers have had both to see and do things which, viewed otherwise than quite simply and scientifically would have been more objectionable. We took them as a mere matter of course, a part of our professional career. It always seems to me that the key to the whole matter lies in the perfection of womanhood, the forgetting of self.

It is in this spirit that we deal with the subject of Venereal Disease—a subject which year by year grows more complex, which with the advance of scientific investigation is shown to be more nearly concerned with the life of the nation than was originally supposed, a subject in short which claims the attention of all thinking men and women.

Since I last had the honour of presenting a paper on Venereal Disease to a Conference of Nurses in July 1909, a flood of light has been poured upon the matter from all parts of the world. It is, I believe, no exaggeration to say that in all countries scientists are at work upon Venereal disease in all its many known manifestations, its origin, its results and its problematical cure.

I do not propose in this paper to repeat what I wrote previously as to the ordinary progress and results of the three Venereal diseases, but, neglecting chancroid and gonorrhoea, for want of time, to deal with some of the later work of our scientists in regard to Syphilis. It is cheering to see the amount of literature brought forth during the last few years. Sir William Osler notes that in Dr. Billinge's Index Catalogue to the Library at Washington of which he was the custodian, whereas the edition of 1896 had 109 pages of references to works on Syphilis, the second edition, just published has 207 pages.

Taking up by chance a number of the *British Medical Journal* not long since, I found in it 7 papers, letters and discussions of medical societies on Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and allied subjects. In France there is a periodical devoted

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