

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

WHAT SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO A CHILD WITH MEASLES? WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROOM?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Dora Vine, Eversley, Exmouth.

PRIZE PAPER.

As the chief dangers from measles are its possible complications (such as inflammation of the air passages, leading to bronchitis and even pneumonia, inflammation of eyes or ears, or general lowering of the vitality, giving tuberculosis a favourable chance), the great thing is to prevent the child from catching cold or from doing anything to lower its powers of resistance. The special points to notice are:—

(A) IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHILD.

1. See that it is given suitable light diet, and that this is served appetisingly and that the patient has sufficient. Children are inclined to be fastidious when ill, and as diet is so important, the nurse should use all her ingenuity in attending to this point.

2. See that the small patient is suitably wrapped up. Children will wriggle about, and that gives rise to possible mischief unless they are warmly clad. A pyjama suit made of viyella meets the purpose well.

3. Make certain rules and have them kept. It is surprising how a regular time-table affects small invalids. Of course, I do not mean hard-and-fast rules, but just that things are done at a certain time. Thus, give the bed-pan after breakfast; then have some quiet occupation; then something quite different, a singing or talking game. After dinner a nap, or at any rate a quite quiet time, and so on, remembering that any child can be trained to keep rules, and it makes an enormous difference to them when ill, especially in a case of measles, when they are not generally ill enough to want constant sick nursing treatment, but careful understanding to ward off all excitement and irritability.

4. Formamint will often be useful, and children like it.

5. In carrying out treatment, make a point of telling the child what you intend to do. Even a painful detail will be borne well if the child expects pain, and knows the nurse expects him to bear it as a soldier, whereas saying "it won't hurt" is never safe, and if any slight pain is felt, the nurse has lost her prestige. These details make just the difference in nursing sick children.

(B) THE ROOM.

The room should be chosen with regard to the following points:—

1. Suitability as to the rest of the house.
2. Airiness and amount of sun.
3. Proximity to lavatory.

One has to consider the other inmates of the house, and so one must choose a room as far away from those in frequent use as possible. Then airiness and the amount of sun must be thought of, and care must be taken that no drains are near. A wet sheet should be hung outside the door. If possible have the room furnished with plain wooden chairs, &c., that can be washed over with some antiseptic. Have something growing to interest the child; a pot of some sort of plant in bud gives much pleasure. Let the cot or bed be either of wood or the ordinary iron bedstead. Arrange for a good fire, and make a wooden framework covered with muslin to fit into the open window so that it need never be shut. Two clothes-horses make excellent screens, and can be covered with either cheap muslin, or, if need be, sheets can be used.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors are accorded honourable mention:—Miss C. McLennan, Miss A. Fairbank, Miss M. Punchard, Miss C. G. Cheatley, Miss D. Evans, Miss P. Dickinson.

The specific germ of measles has not yet been isolated. Isolation of the patient should be maintained from the invasion till desquamation ceases. The eyes require special attention.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What do you know of the following diseases: (a) Rickets; (b) gastric ulcer? Describe the nursing appropriate to each, and the treatment you have seen prescribed.

KING EDWARD VII ORDER OF NURSES.

Her Excellency, Viscountess Gladstone, has donated to the Nurses' Library of King Edward VII Order of Nurses in South Africa, four sets of the four volumes of "A History of Nursing," by Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., and Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N.; that is one set for each of the Provincial Centres of the Order. "You may imagine with what great joy I unpacked them," writes Miss J. C. Child, the General Superintendent of the Order. This is indeed a most thoughtful gift upon the part of Lady Gladstone, and will provide many delightful hours of study for King Edward's Nurses.

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