

relieved by saline injections. Strictures of the œsophagus are also produced by external pressure from tumours or aneurysms. Inflammation and œdema, resulting in ulceration of the œsophagus, is produced by swallowing scalding liquids or corrosive poisons. The ulcerated condition is followed by the formation of a scar, which narrows the passage, and produces the symptoms of stricture. This condition may be treated for a time by nutrient enemata if recovery seems likely, but not infrequently, in order to prevent starvation, a surgical operation is necessary, when there is much difficulty in swallowing, and regurgitation of food takes place.

An hysterical condition, known as "spasmodic stricture" is present sometimes. The patient imagines there is some obstruction hindering the act of swallowing. Food is usually administered by the stomach tube until the patient recovers and is able to take nourishment in the usual way.

Catarrhal and inflammatory conditions of the œsophagus are present in severe cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, &c., where the false membrane has spread downwards towards the gullet. If the inflammation causes pain in swallowing, nourishment is given by means of enemata, and only a little ice administered by mouth.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Dora Vine, Miss F. Sheppard, Miss A. Mackintosh, Miss B. James, Miss O'Brien, Miss M. Endall, Miss J. Harte.

Miss Dora Vine writes:—With regard to feeding the patient, due consideration must be given to the outlook of the case. It is obviously futile to pass sounds and tubes if the patient cannot take sufficient nourishment by their means. It is clear that food must be given in some liquid, digestible (or pre-digested) form, and also in sufficient quantity to nourish the patient. In cases where the stomach itself is free from disease, it is generally thought best to let it do its own work by giving digestible but not *pre-digested* food. By this means the gastric juices perform their functions, and the less artificiality about digestion the better.

In the diseases coming under the heading of *spasm*, where there is stricture, hollow sounds are passed for feeding, the œsophagoscope being of assistance here.

In cases of cancer and malignant growth, generally permanent intubation may be carried out by Symonds' funnel-shaped feeding-tubes passed through the stricture.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How is Medical Asepsis maintained?

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE, 1915.

Thanks to Miss Dock, our International Hon. Secretary, the arrangements for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, and Nursing Congress and Exhibition, to be held at San Francisco from May 31st to June 5th, 1915, are well forward. We have received the Draft Programme of the Ceremonies and Congress, also the details of the delightful tour to and from New York by the International Council of Nurses' train, all details of which will appear in this JOURNAL in our next issue. So please see that you become a subscriber in time to obtain a copy. The inclusive cost of the tour from England and back can evidently be done comfortably, by our organized arrangements, for about £80. The cost of the Californian tour by our special train is to be £45, which includes first-class transportation for the whole trip with Pullman accommodation, and tourist sleeping cars, good hotels (the "Inside Inn" in Exposition grounds at San Francisco), three meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner in hotels and train *en route*, so that the expenses which remain are steamer to and from New York, and food at San Francisco during Congress week, which £35 should cover amply.

NURSES' INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

The National Councils of Nurses affiliated to form the International Council of Nurses, propose to raise a living memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, imbued with her spirit. It must therefore take an educational form, as all her work was founded on a basis of thorough knowledge. We want a "Florence Nightingale Chair of Nursing and Health" in London, and the nurses of the world are going to help us to get it. The gifts will be offered on "Education Day" at the University of California, during the International Nursing Congress on June 2nd, 1915. Our National Council hopes that the donations from Miss Nightingale's native land will be worthy of so great an occasion. Will each English, Scottish, and Irish nurse give One Day's Pay? At the rate of 6d. for probationers, 1s. for staff nurses, and 1s. 6d. for Sisters; Matrons, 3s. to 5s. Subscription forms can be obtained by matrons and superintendents of nurses, and also by individual nurses, from Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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