

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

MENTION SOME COMMON CAUSES OF CONVULSIONS IN CHILDREN AND STATE HOW YOU WOULD MANAGE A CHILD UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Beatrice Smith, Church Road, Willesden.

PRIZE PAPER.

Owing to the instability of a child's nervous system, convulsions in many cases occur from comparatively slight causes, and on removal of the cause soon cease. It is in the condition of rickets that convulsions most commonly occur. The cause is here improper feeding, and when the diet is amended the fits frequently soon cease. The nervous system of a child who has suffered from fits in infancy should be watched with particular care. Teething and stomach troubles are also common causes of convulsions.

The immediate treatment consists in placing the child where it cannot hurt itself by its movements, and loosening all clothing. To prevent the tongue from being bitten, something which will not slip down the throat should be pushed between the teeth; a cork secured by a piece of string, a rubber ring, a knot tied in the corner of a handkerchief, or a pencil can be used. As soon as possible the child should be placed in a warm bath (98° F.). Should no thermometer be at hand, the nurse's elbow will prove an efficient test. The water should be allowed to reach half-way up the trunk, and the child kept in the bath for five minutes, the temperature of the water being maintained at 98°. Meanwhile the head should be sponged with cold water, or, if obtainable, an icebag applied. Should the sight of the bath cause fright or struggling, cloths dipped in mustard and hot water should be applied to the feet, legs, and lower portion of the body, with cold applications to the head. This treatment induces the blood to leave the brain and enter the dilated capillaries of the skin. A spinal icebag would also prove valuable. The child should then be wrapped in a warm blanket and put to bed, and cloths dipped in cold water be kept applied to the head. Some castor oil may be ordered as soon as the child can swallow, or a simple enema (two ounces or more, according to age) may also be given. Having made the child comfortable, the abdomen should be gently rubbed with the warmed hand until the arrival of the doctor.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Name the principal points to be remembered when placing a patient on the operating table.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH.

When the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, whose speech we reported last week, rose to open the Nursing Conference at the Central Hall on the morning of June 10th, a large, representative and expectant audience filled the Conference Hall. Amongst those present on the platform or in the room were the following officers of the Council:—Miss Bedford Fenwick, President; Miss E. M. Musson, Vice-President; Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary; Miss A. Smith, Matron Kingston Infirmary; Miss M. Wright, Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, and Miss A. Carson Rae, Directors; and the following Presidents, Officers and Delegates:—The Matrons' Council, Miss A. E. Hulme; the Irish Nurses' Association, Miss M. Huxley; the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, Miss M. Breay; the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Miss G. Mew; the Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League, Miss Miller; the City of Westminster Infirmary Nurses' League, Miss Elma Smith and Miss Schüller; the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, Miss Barber; the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, Miss Hannath and Miss Macfarlane; the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, Nurses' League, Miss G. A. Rogers and Miss Davies; the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, Miss Buckingham, Miss Pumphrey, and Miss Ashford; the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, Miss Stanier; besides Matrons, Sisters and Nurses from Birmingham Hospitals and Infirmarys, and from all parts of the United Kingdom.

Expressions of regret at being unable to be present were announced from Miss Heather-Bigg (Matrons' Council), Miss L. V. Haughton (Guy's Hospital), Miss Barton (Chelsea), Miss Forrest (Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League), and Miss Pell Smith (Leicester).

In opening the Session, Miss Musson said that it was the desire of the National Council of Trained Nurses to increase the usefulness of the trained nurse as a social factor. The nursing profession in this country was at a somewhat critical stage of development. There was a danger lest the shortage of trained nurses and of suitable candidates for training might tempt those responsible to lower nursing standards as a matter of expediency, which, however, would only temporarily affect the difficulty, and ultimately would make things worse. Proper conditions of work, better remuneration, and a voice in its own self-government were necessary if the right kind of women were to be attracted to the nursing profession, and a lowering of standards prevented. Nurses should concentrate their efforts upon building up their profession on a broad and stable basis. Miss

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