

A method of administering castor and cod liver oils is worth notice: "Put the oil into a small quantity of strong lemonade, and at the bedside stir in a little baking soda. If the mixture is drunk while effervescing no oily taste will be perceived." Quinine, we are told, should be dropped on the surface of an ounce of milk, and at once taken.

When to give medicines; the method of administering hypodermic injections; and drugs which may produce symptoms of poisoning, are sections with which every nurse should be thoroughly familiar. In the chapter on the Nursing of Sick Children some remarks on "lavage" are added, as there is some difference in the method of using it for an adult as compared with a child, and a note on "Subcutaneous Saline Infusion" is also of value.

To the chapter on "Contagion and Disinfection" are added several pages on "The more recent methods of isolation, including cubicle wards and 'barrier nursing,' or 'bed isolation.'" They conclude: "There is considerable difference of opinion as regards the respective merits of the methods of isolation that have been briefly described in the preceding paragraphs; but very few medical men are at present willing to believe that the risk of air borne infection can be safely neglected and attention be paid alone to the personal factors. It must, at any rate, be obvious that the most conscientious nursing is required to permit of bed isolation being attempted without the risk of disastrous failure."

In regard to the administration of anti-toxin in diphtheria a note is added explaining that "anti-toxin is usually injected under the skin at the side of the abdomen, since any inflammation that may result will cause less inconvenience to the patient in that region than it would on the back. To prepare a patient for an injection of anti-toxin the nurse should, after thoroughly scrubbing her own hands in soap and hot water, treat the part of the abdominal wall that is to be injected in the same way, sponge it with alcohol and cover it with a sterile towel."

In the chapter on "Other infectious diseases," instruction has been added as to syphilis, congenital syphilis, gonorrhoea, outbreaks of vaginitis in wards containing a number of little girls, and the methods by which it is spread; "either the presence of the primary case in the ward has been overlooked, or adequate precautions have not been taken to protect the other children."

A new chapter is added on "Pulmonary Tuberculosis," and we read that "with the advent of the National Insurance Act and the provision of sanatorium benefit, the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has become a matter of increased interest and importance to nurses."

A new chapter has now been added on "The Treatment of Disease by Vaccines, Light, and X-Rays—New Growths," without which knowledge a nurse cannot now-a-days be considered up-to-date.

M. B.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The distribution committee of the Alexandra Day collections met at the Mansion House on Monday, the Lord Mayor presiding.

It was reported that after the payment of all expenses, of which the making of the roses was the chief, there would be about £22,000 to distribute, or £6,000 more than last year. Of that sum Queen Alexandra, at the wish of the committee, had indicated institutions among which she desired £6,645 divided, and the committee proceeded to allocate the remainder.

Braintree (Essex) Guardians have unanimously decided to appoint Mrs. Annie Barlow, workhouse master, in succession to her husband, Mr. C. H. Barlow, who died a month ago.

Last week Lady Derby opened the new Sir Alfred Jones Ward of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine which has been provided at the Royal Infirmary out of benefactions under the will of the late Sir Alfred Jones. Lady Derby was presented with a gold card-case as a souvenir of the occasion.

Members of Parliament pricked up their ears on Thursday when Mr. Montague, speaking for the Government, on the third reading of the Finance Bill in the House of Commons, mentioned the foundation of a "State Medical Service" as one of the means by which social evils were to be dealt with. From this statement it would appear as if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had determined to set up such a service. Medical opinion is strongly divided upon such a policy.

## "MATTHEWS' MANUAL OF NURSING HOMES."

A most useful publication is "Matthews' Manual of Nursing Homes and Hydros of the British Isles and Guide to Spas and Health Resorts," published annually by Alex. Matthews & Co., Ltd., 93 and 94, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., price 2s. 6d. Those in search of accommodation in the beauty spots and health giving resorts of the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands, which is suited for those not in robust health and needing skilled attention, can scarcely do better than consult this manual. Indeed, the only difficulty likely to present itself is the difficulty of selection, so attractive are the illustrations, so alluring the advantages of many Homes and Hydros detailed in its pages.

The manual should be in hands of all doctors and private nurses. An interesting section is that devoted to descriptive articles on Health Resorts, and the invalid will be hard to please who cannot find amongst these one which will be congenial and health giving.

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