

The occurrence of bed-sores should be guarded against, and there is probably difficulty in swallowing and continual elevation of temperature: a sudden fall of temperature would indicate fresh hæmorrhage.

Treatment will be partly prophylactic, every possible care being taken to ward off a second attack.

Where the predisposing causes are known, treatment will be directed to the removal or prevention of the occurrence of these causes, whenever possible, but each case will need strictly individual treatment.

In treating the attack itself, rest and quiet are of very great importance. The room should be cool and well ventilated, and the patient propped up in bed with pillows. The temperature, pulse, and respiration should be taken four-hourly and recorded. The administration of nourishment must be persevered with; where swallowing is performed with difficulty, the nutriment should be concentrated and given with a teaspoon, and, if necessary, supplemented by rectal feeding. The bowels should be regulated carefully, avoiding powerful purgatives; the condition of the bladder should be noted, and it should be emptied if necessary. Every effort should be directed to improving the general health of the patient, so assisting the normal performance of the functions of the body. Various drugs, such as the bromides, aconite, ammonia, &c., are sometimes prescribed, also local applications, such as cold, either in the form of ice bag or by Leiter's tubes, leeches, venesection, &c.

Later, electricity and massage, especially of the paralysed limbs, are usually employed, and often prove invaluable. It is impossible to estimate the good results of devoted and assiduous nursing in this disease; any fresh symptoms arising noted and reported without delay, may be of the greatest importance in bringing about a recovery as favourable as possible.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

It is evident that nurses are unacquainted with the question of dieting and catering for patients, or that they are not interested in it, as none of the papers received, on the question of the diet and approximate cost for seven days' dietary for wounded soldiers in a Territorial Hospital, are of sufficient merit to warrant publication, or the award of a prize. The question of diet is so important in the case of sick persons that it is to be hoped more attention will be paid to it by nurses.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

TERRITORIAL NURSES AND THE PRESS.

Dated October 1st, we have received the following letter from a Matron of a General Hospital (Territorial Force):—

Dear Madam,—I am "furious," as I find stupid articles being published in some of the nursing papers, and would be grateful if you will not publish anything in connection with this Hospital without my knowledge and approval. I think you will sympathise with me in this matter. Being an ex-Matron you will understand how annoying it is to find rubbish printed and published. Yours, &c.

To which we have sent the following reply:—

Dear Miss ——— As we do not admit "rubbish" to the columns of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I suppose that your letter was intended for the "quack" nursing press, and conclude you have communicated with the lay and alien unprofessional persons who have the impertinence to instruct the nursing profession in this country (of course for a substantial consideration) concerning their professional affairs. You will note in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that I have touched upon this question of "Territorial Nurses and the Press" (page 261) in which I point out that so long as the Matron-in-Chief of the T.F.N.S. is herself an active member of the editorial staff of one of these publications, the Matrons in the Service can take no exception to, nor enforce any regulation which prohibits the rank and file of the Service from contributing to the press.

My advice as an ex-Matron is that you communicate with your Senior Officer, and place your complaint before her, and not to attempt to "square" editors of newspapers, whose business primarily is not to maintain discipline in the institution which you control, however much they may (as I do) sympathise with your difficulties owing to the unethical standards permitted at the War Office.

MISS CUTLER RETURNS.

Miss Beatrice Cutler and Miss K. F. Wilkinson, of the International Nursing Corps, with Miss Stollard and Miss Ingram, who proceeded to Brussels under the authority of St. John Ambulance Association on August 14th, have returned to London, as there is at present very little work for foreign nurses to do in Brussels.

Miss E. J. Haswell, of the Registered Nurses' Society, has been left in charge of the International Corps, and Miss V. Thurstan has returned to Brussels from Charleroi, to look after her large contingent of nurses. We have been specially asked not to allude at present to the details of the return journey of the four ladies mentioned above. Suffice it to say that they left all their compatriots wonderfully well, and that we shall hear more of their adventures anon. The Croix

previous page

next page