

Madeline Smith, Miss Lilian N. Abell, Miss Dorothy Maton, Miss Dora Vine, Miss Eleanor M. Boykett, Miss S. Simpson, Miss Jessie Jackson, Miss F. Sheppard.

Miss Madeline Smith writes:—The complications are: (1) Albuminuria, which later may result in (2) Nephritis. Test urine and measure daily: report to the medical man if any blood or albumen are present. Hot packs, and fomentation to loins, in suppression, are sometimes ordered. Nurse in blankets, with covered hot water bottles. Never allow extremities to get cold. Give plenty of barley water to drink, to flush out kidneys. Watch for muscular twitchings.

(3) Arthritis. (4) Suppurating joints, a very serious complication which may result in death, caused by septicæmia. (5) Endocarditis and Synovitis. (6) Otorrhea. (7) Otitis media, swollen cervical glands. (8) "Scarlatina Anginosa" (septic). Where there is much ulceration and sloughing of the fauces, constant cleansing of nose and throat is required. This is carried out by gentle irrigations of saline. Swabs of wool immersed in boracic lotion should also be used to gently wipe round gums and teeth in order to remove all discharges. Ears, when discharging, should be cleansed by irrigation very frequently, and great care should be taken; if they are not properly treated and cared for, a mastoid abscess often results.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Why are flies dangerous to health? Describe how best to prevent their multiplication and how best to exterminate them.

CANCER AND SMOKING.

Dr. S. Davies, Medical Officer of Health for Woolwich, has been investigating the habits of persons who have suffered, or died, from cancer in the last two years. While the disease is frequently caused by local irritation, apart from the irritation caused by a pipe smoking has been alleged to be the cause of cancer, so have alcoholic drinks.

Dr. Davies found that of 71 men and 49 women, 27 per cent. were excessive alcohol drinkers, and 39 per cent. were excessive smokers.

Compared with 108 persons under similar circumstances, who did not die of cancer, 18 per cent. were excessive alcohol drinkers, and 17 per cent. excessive smokers. From this he deduced that both alcohol and smoking had some little general effect in promoting cancer, but their injurious influence was chiefly local.

NURSING IN PRISONS.*

By MRS. MAXWELL ST. JOHN, R.R.C.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, there is in the prisons of England and Wales to-day one nurse with a three-years' training doing hospital duty. She has trained an assistant, who has worked under her for some years. This is in Aylesbury Women's Convict Prison. In Holloway Prison the maternity nurse has nineteen years' and the other charge nurse has fourteen years' prison hospital experience. The medical officer in charge at Holloway, who told me that he had had a good deal of experience of nurses' work, as house physician in his hospital, before his prison experience, and evidently keeps in touch with modern conditions, considers the standard of nursing in Holloway Prison very high; in fact, as good as in a well-managed civil hospital.

In the men's prisons the nursing is done by old R.A.M.C. men and ex-sick-berth stewards of the Royal Navy.

There are no women regularly employed in men's prisons; but in small prisons, where the nursing staff is inadequate, trained women nurses can be requisitioned in special emergency; and this has been done. The hospital staff receives regular instruction from the medical officer.

All wardresses are on probation for their first four months, during which time they receive special instruction from the medical officer. As a rule, those who are selected for hospital work have had previous maternity, poor law, or asylum experience. I am told that some of them take their C.M.B. while in the prison service.

The hospital staff is not taken for other duties, but is subject to the same "discipline" (being liable to fines and other punishments) as the ordinary prison officers. Their salaries are the same; that is, for women, roughly from £45 to £180 per annum (the latter being the salary of the matron at Holloway), with quarters, laundry, uniform, fire, light, &c., not food, and pension as per civil service scale. At Aylesbury the trained nurse above mentioned received from the first the same rank and remuneration as a chief matron, it being recognised that a person with the qualifications required could not be obtained on the usual terms for wardresses. And the extra outlay has evidently been well worth while. Does not this show that, even in matters of finance, a

* A Paper read at the Birmingham Nursing Conference, June, 1914.

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