

WINDOW-BLIND SPLINTS FOR FRACTURES.

The Paris correspondent of the *Lancet* writes:—

“Dr. Prestrelle, having occasion to put up a very large number of fractures in soldiers, has devised an emergency method for their reduction which has given him excellent results in securing the removal of the wounded to the ambulance or the field hospital with a minimum of suffering and danger from complications. Having frequently found it necessary to insert in the plaster casing, to increase its firmness, pieces of green window-blind (*stores vertis*)—blinds, that is, composed of fine fibres of rush held together by latticed threads—it occurred to him to make use of them as splints (without using the plaster). While very rigid in the longitudinal direction they can be made to adapt themselves in the other direction to any surface as desired. With strong scissors they can be cut into the exact length and shape necessary. For a fracture of the leg, after an aseptic dressing of the wound, the limb is surrounded with a good layer of cotton wool, then a piece of blind extending two centimetres below beyond the heel and reaching above to the upper third of the thigh is applied. A roller bandage applied around the thigh to the top of the apparatus and a stirrup spiral wound round the foot secure immobility. For the thigh, in like manner, the blind material is cut so that it reaches the fold of the groin internally and the great trochanter externally, starting from the heel. In fractures of the thigh, when once the patient has been settled comfortably on the stretcher, Dr. Prestrelle attaches a weight or a brick to the foot by means of a cord passing over another cord joining the two handles of the stretcher. He has thus been enabled to keep for a day and a night at the dressing station wounded men with fractured thighs almost entirely free from suffer'ng.”

KILL THAT FLY.

The work of trained nurses in every country is the upkeep of health, to be a solace in sickness, and to save Life. It is great and beneficent work. But in fulfilling this programme they must wage war on disease carriers, especially the common housefly. It may appear paradoxical, but to save life you must kill that fly. Make a bee line for every one you can destroy; just don't give them time to propagate—begin now. The overcrowding of recruits in preparation for war makes this slaughter absolutely necessary.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE FULLY WHAT HELP IN DIAGNOSIS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM (a) THE COLOUR OF A PATIENT'S FACE, (b) EXPRESSION, (c) THE EYES, (d) POSITION ASSUMED.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss C. G. Cheatley, Union Infirmary, Lisburn Road, Belfast.

PRIZE PAPER.

The face is a useful index of disease, and may give warning that a patient is doing badly even when definite signs are wanting elsewhere. The flushed face of fever is well known; and the pale circle round the mouth, with flushed cheeks and forehead, is very characteristic of scarlet fever. The pallor of anæmia can hardly fail to strike the attention, but may accompany more serious conditions, such as tuberculosis or renal disease. In grave forms of anæmia, such as pernicious anæmia, the face may have a slightly yellow tinge. The deeper yellow of jaundice is also seen in the face, and appears early on the sclerotics (whites of the eyes), where it also lingers late. Puffiness of the face, especially beneath the eyes, is very suggestive of renal disease.

Cyanosis, or blueness, indicates deficient aëration of the blood, due either to failure of the heart or to obstruction in the respiratory apparatus (bronchitis, laryngeal obstruction). In cases of difficult respiration, as in pneumonia and pericarditis, the nostrils may be seen to dilate at each inspiration.

The condition of the face seen in those who are dying of acute abdominal disease, or of some exhausting illness, was described many hundred years ago by the old Greek physician, Hippocrates, and is still called after him, the Hippocratic face: the nose looks pinched, the cheeks sunken, the eyes hollow, the ears thin; there is a dusky pallor, and sometimes sweating. In patients who suffer from headache there is often a frown on the forehead, as if to shut out some of the light from the eyes. Deep lines on the forehead are also seen in melancholic patients, who wear an aspect of intense dejection. The wizened, monkey-like faces of “wasting” children are often very striking; many of them are the subjects of congenital syphilis.

Various rashes and skin diseases affect the face; thus the exanthemata of measles, chicken-pox, and small-pox appear there; syphilitic affections often appear on the forehead; and herpes round the mouth often accompanies infective diseases, such as a common cold, pneumonia, cerebro-spinal meningitis, &c. Lupus, a tubercular disease of the skin,

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