

transference of the patient to the operating table, the bladder is emptied by catheter, with every aseptic precaution. The urine is kept for examination, also soiled rectal pads, as well as any vomited matter.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the causes, symptoms, and terminations of inflammations.

Will competitors note an additional rule for competition—*i.e.*, that the number of words contained in the article sent must be written on the left hand top corner of the first page.

THE DISTRICT NURSING OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM IN LONDON.

At the annual meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, the Executive Committee presented for approval a report on the District Nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which question they had referred to the Organization Sub-Committee to report upon, and to consider the desirability of formulating a scheme for its prompt and effective treatment.

The report states that it has been authoritatively asserted "that ophthalmia neonatorum accounts for upwards of 10 per cent. of all cases of blindness," and that it is "the cause of at least one-third of the blindness in inmates of British Blind Schools and Asylums below the age of 16 or 18 years."

Where the disease (which is in many cases venereal in its origin and gonorrhœal in its nature) occurs, there is no time to be lost. If neglected, or if treatment be delayed or inappropriate, corneal ulceration, or even rapid destruction of one or both eyes, may ensue, and the victim may in a few days or hours be condemned to lifelong blindness, and, not improbably, rendered a permanent charge on rates or charity.

The following are the recommendations contained in a very interesting report:—

"We think that in all home-nursed cases, where the social position of the family is such as to justify the utilization of a district nursing service, such service should be available. We recommend:—

(a) That the Medical Officers of the London County Council and of the Metropolitan Borough Councils be kept informed of (1) The Associations ready to provide nurses for cases of ophthalmia neonatorum; (2) The various streets in which the

nurses from the several Associations are prepared to take cases.

(b) That representations be made to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, indicating the need that exists for greater facilities, for in-patient treatment of mother and child in cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

(c) That a memorial be addressed to the Local Government Board, on behalf of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, petitioning that financial assistance may be given through the Council to the District Nursing Associations from the Maternity and Child Welfare Grants, to enable the Associations to continue and extend the services rendered by them in the care of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

The importance of some training in ophthalmic nursing for nurses before being entrusted with the care of a case of ophthalmia neonatorum is realized by the District Nursing Associations, as the Q.V.J.I. have found that nurses have not as a rule received any special training in eye nursing. An arrangement was therefore made over eighteen months ago, by which every nurse on joining the Institute is given an opportunity of attending Moorfields Hospital for a period of ophthalmic training free of charge, and also of attending a course of lectures given by a member of the Staff to the nurses of the Hospital. In this way a large number of district nurses have obtained some competent knowledge of ophthalmic nursing.

Similar arrangements have been in force since 1911 between the Ranyard Nurses and the Moorfields Hospital. Facilities are also accorded for a course of instruction at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

A NEW ANTISEPTIC.

At a meeting of the governors of the Middlesex Hospital last week, Dr. C. H. Browning, Director of the Bland-Sutton Institute, said that since the war there had been a clamant need for chemical substances which would aid the surgeon in his treatment of the many terribly distressing cases of sepsis. He made the important announcement that the Institute had discovered an antiseptic which they had called "Flavine," which probably afforded the surgeon the most powerful accessory weapon yet known. Surgeons had despaired of discovering an ideal antiseptic, which should kill bacteria without harming the tissues. With "Flavine" they were very near this goal, and the magnitude of the gain in saving individual suffering, and in cutting short sepsis in wounds, could scarcely yet be realized.

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