

may even be able to use his arm or leg properly again, when he will amply repay the efforts spent upon him.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention :—Miss Ada B. Weir, Miss Lottie M. Moffitt, Miss Bessie Grey Johnson, Miss Winifred Ridge, Miss G. L. Sheppard, Miss Etta Trevethan.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the causes of dysentery, and how is it treated?

THYROIDECTOMY FOLLOWING SHELL SHOCK.

The patient, a brave soldier boy of nineteen years old, had been in the Army for sixteen months, nine months of which had been spent in France.

He was a typical "Mother's Boy," quiet, very shy, and by all accounts, previous to joining the Colours had led an out-of-the-way life in the North of England.

He was one of a very big convoy which arrived at the hospital late at night, and he presented the most dejected appearance—the eyes protruding, very rapid pulse, palpitation frequent, marked depression, and slight enlargement of the thyroid gland, the left lobe being larger than the right.

His label stated that he had been in a base hospital five weeks suffering from shell-shock, and was unconscious for twelve hours after admission. The following treatment was ordered and carried out for one month :—

Absolute rest in bed in a recumbent position. He did nothing but feed himself, and this he did lying down.

All-over washes night and morning.

Flannel was worn next to the skin, and a blanket covering him.

A four-hourly chart was kept, and a weekly account of his weight.

The diet consisted of fish, chicken, beef tea, eggs, custard, jelly, and many extra nourishments.

Leiter's coils and ice-bags to the neck were tried, but the patient's objection to both was so great that they had to be discontinued.

Anti-thyroidin-morbus was given per mouth for the first fortnight, M. xv. T.D.S., and for the last fortnight M. x. T.D.S.

By the end of the month, in spite of every attention, the patient had lost weight, his spirits were below zero, he was always cold, and the

pulse was often so rapid as to be impossible to count.

After this it was decided to do thyroidectomy, and a few days later part of both lobes were removed, continuous salines were given subcutaneously for twenty-four hours following the operation, and the patient was propped right up in bed.

The patient improved from the beginning, and in ten days the stitches were removed; three weeks later he was up.

During the six weeks the patient remained in hospital following the operation he gained 7 lb. in weight; the temperature, which had been sub-normal, rose slightly and then settled down to normal; a great improvement took place in the pulse rate, and palpitation was entirely absent.

But the part that interested me most was the great change in the mental attitude of the patient. Previous to the operation he had been most difficult to deal with, and nothing ever pleased him. As soon as he was able to get about he became one of our brightest and best helpers, whose influence amongst the more lively portion of the ward could always be relied upon for good. At the same time he never quite lost his natural shyness and reserve.

Six months later I casually met him, and was delighted to find the improvement had been maintained and strengthened, and also that he had been spared the ordeal of further active service.

KATHLEEN R. KOHLER.

SPOTTED FEVER.

The value of scientific investigation of a disease is evidenced in the work done in connection with cerebro-spinal meningitis (spotted fever) by the Medical Research Committee, in conjunction with the Army Medical Department.

It has been proved that :—

(1) A case of cerebro-spinal fever only yields a single type of *meningococcus* from its cerebro-spinal fluid—*i.e.*, that a case is always strictly one type or another.

(2) That the type found in the nose is always the same as the type in the brain.

(3) That because the germ is always present in the nose at the beginning of the attack, every case of the disease is an instance of a "carrier" becoming a victim to his own carried infection.

(4) Finally, that "type breeds true" in every case. The types are not interchangeable. They are separate breeds, as white men and black men and yellow men are.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)