

and as the care of the head of the infant is an important part of Obstetric Nursing, a little knowledge of it may be of interest and use to my young readers.

The cranium or brain case, consists of four separate bones, the frontal, the occipital (back), and the two parietal (side bones); there are four other skull bones, the two temporal, the sphenoid, and the ethmoid; but these are of little obstetric interest. During foetal life, the articulations that connect the four cranial bones are soft and loose, permitting a large amount of compression of the head during birth; the articulation that connects the parietal bones is called the sagittal suture. The membranous space that lies between the frontal and parietal bones is called the "bregssia," or anterior fontanelle; the lesser space that marks the articulations of the parietal and frontal bones is called the posterior fontanelle. At birth these structures are distinctly visible, and as they are more or less developed, we say our baby has a soft or a hard head; but under all circumstances, the cranial plates are thin and tender, and the head requires the gentlest handling.

Now, we can understand the baneful effect upon those membranous spaces, the fontanelles, especially the anterior one, over which the fiery fluids we have just mentioned were *always* poured, might have upon those delicate structures of the infantile head; and when it happened to be denuded of hair, which is often the case, still more injurious would they be. There is another peculiarity about the head of the newly-born—viz., soft swellings—mostly between the parietal and occipetal bones—commonly called the tumour of the scalp, and is due to cranial pressure during birth. An effusion of fluid into the membranous spaces and œdæma to a considerable extent takes place. As a rule the so-called *caput succedaneum* rapidly diminishes by the absorption of the effused fluid. In other cases the tumour persists for some weeks, and may require surgical treatment. There is little for a Nurse to do but to carefully avoid *all* pressure, or rubbing of any kind with lotions of any sort, without medical sanction. Unwise meddling with the tumour will be sure to do harm, and possibly make a simple trouble a serious one.

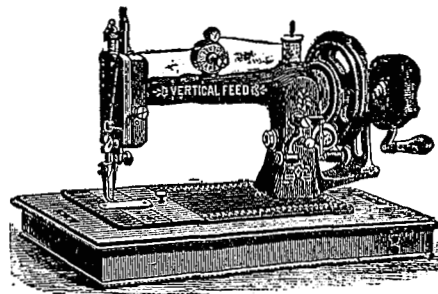
(To be continued.)

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WE have much pleasure in announcing that we are enabled to offer a Special Prize—viz., a Sewing Machine, as per illustration, which is furnished with a handsome walnut cover, of the value of FIVE GUINEAS, to the com-



petitor who makes and sends in the neatest and most effective NURSE'S CAP. *Rules.*—The cap, which should be accompanied with the full name and address of the competitor and a statement of the exact cost of the materials used in the making of it, with the coupon cut out of our advertisement column, securely packed in a box, must be addressed to "Nursing Record Special Prize Competition, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C." It must be delivered not later than Saturday, August 1, next. The manufacturers have kindly undertaken to teach the winner (free of any charge) how to work and use the machine. The machine is on view and can be seen any day from ten to twelve at the Vertical Feed Sewing Machine Company, 24, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—XXIII.

[Honourable Mention.]

Describe, for a Hospital containing fifty beds, the number of Nursing Officials, Staff, Pupils, or Probationers required; mention their duties, their hours, and the regulations necessary for their satisfactory working.

BY MISS LOUISE WEBB.

THE Hospital, consisting of fifty beds, will be divided into four Wards, A and B, women's Medical and Surgical, containing each fourteen beds; C, men's Medical, having twelve beds; and D, men's surgical, with ten beds.

The Staff will consist of a Matron, two Head Nurses, four Nurses, five Probationers, and three Night Nurses.

During the day, to superintend Wards A and B, there will be a Head Nurse, having under her in each Ward a Nurse and Probationer, with a

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