

If Carrel's tubes are inserted in the wound, the clothes at the end of the bed must be left loose to allow evaporation. The limb must be kept warm with hot bottles, and a "cosy" of gamgee tissue put over the toes.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss W. Appleton, Miss E. S. Lewis, Mrs. Farthing, Miss H. T. Inglis, Miss P. Thomson, Miss M. James.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What advice would you give in a case of chronic phthisis which had to be nursed at home?

SMALL-POX ON THE CONTINENT.

The *Lancet* gives a grave warning concerning the recent increased incidence of small-pox on the continent of Europe, which it says is likely to give rise to some uneasiness among those who are acquainted with the comparatively unprotected state of a large section of our population against the onset of this dangerous and infectious disease. It continues: "The present circumstances, as we have on several occasions pointed out, are entirely favourable to the spread of small-pox to our shores. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers are returning from the various war zones, in some of which small-pox has lately been occurring, and the pent-up trade and shipping, so long restrained by the war, are now being let loose and bringing many passenger ships and cargo boats to British ports from the Mediterranean littoral, the Baltic, and the Black Sea, in all of which regions small-pox was recently, or still is, occurring in epidemic form. A brief outline of the incidence of small-pox on the continent during the first half of the present year, so far, at least, as information is available (which it there gives), may help the reader to gauge the extent of the danger already threatening this country—a danger which in the late autumn may, in our opinion, become still more acute and menacing. . . ."

"Owing to the Bolshevik régime in Russia little information is allowed to pass over the frontier as to the incidence of infectious diseases. It is, however, a well-known fact that for many years small-pox has been more prevalent in Russia than in any other European country. With the suppression of sanitary administration and the disregard of scientific advice by those now exercising power in various parts of Russia, small-pox has become more prevalent at the present than in the past."

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss Sara E. Parsons, R.N., Chief Nurse Base Hospital No. 6, A.E.F., in a paper presented to the Convention of the National League of Nursing Education at Chicago, in June last, giving her conclusions based on experience, wrote in part:—

"As to the education of the nurse who is going to serve the army in time of war—the nurse needs as complete an education as she can possibly have. I cannot imagine any condition when more can possibly be demanded of the nurse than is demanded in these hospitals. We had all kinds of contagion in our hospital, I think, except whooping cough, and perhaps with all the coughing that was going on we may have overlooked the whooping variety. We had everything else I can think of, even a maternity case. One morning, about four o'clock, a very unexpected case was brought to us—our consul's wife. When the night nurse came in and informed me just what had happened, I was glad that the nurses were not just surgically trained nurses; they were able to care for even a maternity case.

I will say that if there is anything I did that was of any value I think it was trying to direct the social life of the nurses. That, I do think, needs someone old enough and unafraid enough to fight the battles of social life valiantly. With the number of officers coming and going, and who were inclined to treat the base hospital as a kind of Coney Island dance hall, or something of that sort, it needed somebody to help the nurses keep things sufficiently conventional so that we could maintain our self-respect and have a good time in a family sort of way, rather than in an indiscriminate fashion.

I am going to be very frank in saying what I think, as long as I have been asked to. It may relieve my mind, so that I will be a better Christian when I get through. . . . The organisation seemed, to anybody who had worked in a civil hospital for twenty-five years with more or less freedom, never any too much, regular serfdom.

My conclusions are that under the military organisation the work was hindered by the divided authority. Even that order that was gotten out, giving the nurse responsibility in the wards, did not help as far as her authority over the orderlies went. It was not worth the paper it was written on.

Recommendations: Nurses should have rank and its insignia as a professional body of women who must assume very grave responsibilities. The Director of Nurses should have authority regarding placement of nurses and matters pertaining to their health and morale—also means for direct communication with her sub chiefs. There should be distinction in uniform according to rank, and an appropriate dress uniform. There should be an emergency appropriation for use in the medical department. There should be conservation of health by suitable changes and vacations. Orderlies should come under the direct authority of the chief nurses, so long as they are assigned the care of patients."

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