

IN AN INDIAN HOSPITAL WARD.

I consider the case I give below a very interesting one, and the first one I have seen recover from this particular accident.

B. R., a little Indian boy, aged ten years, run over by a motor-car, was brought in by the police with multiple injuries, and also complained of pain over the abdomen and left lumbar region, had bleeding from the nose and had vomited.

On being admitted, an operation at once was decided on by the surgeon. The patient was prepared for operation. An incision was made in the middle line, a little to the right, about three inches long, and afterwards extended an inch above and below. A large quantity of blood was found in the peritoneal cavity, and a tear on the inferior surface of the liver lateral to the gall bladder, extending for about two inches. The tear in the liver was bleeding. Another incision was made communicating with peritoneal cavity just below the costal margin on the right side in the anterior axillary line about one and a half inches in length. Gauze packing was inserted between the gall bladder and the lateral surface of the liver and the tear packed. One end protruding through the incision, the peritoneal cavity was swabbed and the abdominal incision closed with silk gut sutures. A part of the lateral incision was also closed with silk gut sutures. On patient being brought back to wards the surgeon said: "There is no hope for the child."

At the beginning condition very bad indeed. Pulse 152, Respiration 44. On admission into hospital the patient was unconscious. After operation, given mixture of Cal. Chloride and Digitalis. Dressed twice daily, when a discharge of blood and bile was noticed. Normal saline was given per rectum for many days, and the patient put on small quantities of milk and barley water, which gradually were increased. Admitted 25.7.19. On the 6.8.19 pus accompanying the discharge, which varied in quantity from day to day. On the 20.8.19 a deep incision was made in the former wound and a drainage tube inserted. On the 2.9.19 temperature rose to 103.6, pulse 124, and respiration 36. Drainage tube removed and packed with iodoform gauze. Pus still from wound. 5.9.19 drainage tube again inserted. 12.9.19 patient developed dysentery which was treated with Inj. Emetine. After some days the drainage tube was removed and the wound looked a healthy one and the sinus gradually healed. The dysentery also yielded to treatment and the boy was discharged cured on the

18th September, 1919. I consider this an exceptionally good recovery. I have seen other cases of injury to the liver but none survived after a few days.

AMELIA M. BURKE.

Bombay.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Winter Meeting of the Matrons' Council, at which Miss M. Heather-Bigg will preside, will be held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer, at 2, Portland Place, W., at 3 p.m., on Thursday, January 29th, and a very memorable meeting it will be. Tea will be served after the meeting at 4.30 p.m. The present generation of Matrons knows little of the fine organisation work for the profession accomplished by the Council in the past. For many years—from 1896 to 1904—it was the State nurses' society which stood firmly for the State Registration of Nurses, and for nursing organisation in general. Its past reports might well be read up by the younger members—and by hospital matrons who stood aside until 1919.

At the meeting on January 29th, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will speak on "The Nurses' Registration Act and the Duties and Responsibilities of the General Nursing Council."

There should be a large gathering to take part in this happy occasion.

THE EDITH CAVELL MONUMENT.

The attention of those nurses who take part in the Thanksgiving Service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Friday, 23rd inst., will naturally be attracted by the Edith Cavell monument on the North-East corner of the Square, at the junction of Charing Cross Road and St. Martin's Lane, with which good progress is being made.

On Tuesday there was an interesting function, when Viscount Burnham placed in a cavity of the structure a leaden box containing documents relating to Edith Cavell's life. The casket, on the front of which is the moulded head of a lion, was the gift of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters, and, in addition to copies of *The Daily Telegraph* describing the history of the memorial, the heroism of Edith Cavell, and the manner in which she met her death, there are, says that paper, the signatures of the King and Queen on vellum bearing the Royal Arms, and documents with the signatures of the King and Queen of Belgium. The box also contains a complete list of the subscribers.

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