

Douching may be ordered; if so, apparatus must be boiled for twenty minutes before use, and usual aseptic precautions carried out. The same dangers attend abortion as labours—namely, sepsis and hæmorrhage—therefore temperature and pulse-rate need a watchful eye night and morning, and temperature 99 or over, or pulse-rate over 90, must be regarded as suspicious. If severe hæmorrhage should occur, packing vagina with sterile swabs, or douching, may be ordered.

Molar Pregnancy, missed abortion or false conception, as it is known, is the dying of the ovum without expulsion, and so hæmorrhage takes place between the chorion and decidua, causing the chorionic villi to be compressed by blood effusion, the foetus dying and a carneous or fleshy mole developing.

Treatment.—Send for doctor if a brownish or red discharge takes place, or on expulsion of any substance from vagina; keep patient warm in bed; treat generally as for abortion.

Hydatidiform Mole is very uncommon, but may be suspected in the case of an abnormal size of abdomen to date of amenorrhœa, or if a loss of blood is noticed; often cystic bodies like currants are present.

Extra-uterine Pregnancy is a very dangerous condition. The ovum develops outside the uterus in one or other of the Fallopian tubes; the tube may burst and internal hæmorrhage result. The patient may have no warning of an abnormal condition, or she may have pain and irregular hæmorrhages. On the slightest suspicion of such condition a doctor must be sent for, as an abdominal operation will be necessary, and tube and ovary removed on that side. The after-treatment will be the same as an ordinary abdominal operation.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss M. M. Bielby, Miss P. Thomson, Miss M. James, Miss J. Browne.

Hæmorrhage during the first three months of pregnancy may be due to threatened or inevitable abortion resulting from the use of drugs, ergot and quinine being taken to induce criminal abortion. Amongst Russian peasants who eat rye bread, abortion is common. Lead poisoning in any form, specific fevers, especially pneumonia and smallpox, as pyrexia and hyperpyrexia kill the embryo.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What is jaundice? In what way do the urine and faeces in this complaint differ from the normal? Describe the after treatment of a patient who has had the operation of cholecystotomy performed.

NURSING ECHOES.

1921.

LE ROI EST MORT.

At midnight of the last December day
I heard the gentle closing of a door,
And then I knew that one had crept away
Who would recross the threshold nevermore.

A figure old and bent with features hid
And footfalls growing fainter down the path,
While there is left of all we hoped and did
Memory only, and the aftermath!

C. B. M.

Before our next issue the New Year will have been acclaimed in a spirit of hopefulness. May 1922 bring good fortune to all our readers.

It has been announced in the press that Mr. L. G. Brock, C.B., an Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Health, interviewed the resigning members of the General Nursing Council on behalf of Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health, on Wednesday, December 21st. The gist of the conversations has not been so far made public, but Mr. Brock has stated "that the resignations had nothing to do with the question of the Syllabus or the entry of Certificates of qualification of existing nurses in the Register."

This being so, no other question is for the moment of any vital interest to the Nursing Profession, and we hope we may conclude that Existing Nurses will soon be relieved of any anxiety as to the record of their Certificates in the published Register, and Future Nurses encouraged to train under the Syllabus unanimously recommended by the General Nursing Council.

We have been informed on good authority that the Committee of an important London Hospital, whose excellent Matron's health has failed after twenty years' exceedingly hard work, have announced that they cannot afford to give her any pension. As the cause of illness will prevent this lady being subjected to any strain for the future, this appears to us a very hard case indeed, and we hope our information is either incorrect or that the Committee will in justice see fit to reconsider its decision. The salaries of matrons and nurses in the past have not been on a scale on which they could save sufficient to live upon in old age, and when ill-health is added, surely after years of service the Committee of a charitable institution should deal humanely with an official

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)