

MEDICAL MATTERS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THORACIC RESPIRATION.

Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., F.R.C.S. Eng., in a most interesting paper in the *Lancet* on "The Importance of Thoracic Respiration," calls attention to the very important part which it plays at all periods of life. In the course of the paper he writes:—"I cannot illustrate the importance of the bearing of the respiratory function on body growth and general vitality better than by giving the results of efficient respiratory exercises extending over a period of four months. The subject was a delicate child, whose respiration normally was entirely abdominal, and whose pharynx showed marked adenoid growth. The table, which is appended in the paper, represents measurements of the chest at the nipple level in its inspiratory and expiratory limits.

"These figures show that in four weeks the measurement on extreme inspiration showed an increase of 4 in., the expiratory limit remaining the same, while the weight had gone up 9½ lb. Three months later the inspiratory limit was 36 in., the expiratory had increased to 9½ in., and the weight was 9 st. 4 lb.; moreover, all objective evidence of adenoid growth had disappeared. Such an improvement could not have been effected without constant care and attention on the part of the highly trained nurse who carried out the treatment."

NEW INFLUENZA SYMPTOMS.

The Medical Correspondent of the *Times* makes an interesting statement as to the symptoms of the present sharp epidemic of influenza, which differ from those seen in the great epidemic of 1918. They are gastric rather than pulmonary. Almost the first symptom noted seems to be giddiness. The temperature may or may not rise thereafter, but the patient rapidly becomes very unwell and weak, and in some cases falls collapsed. Some observers describe a rash of pinkish spots slightly raised above the skin on chest, shoulders, or back. They are not plentiful, and are seldom noticed unless looked for. Patients recover slowly, and are apt to be neurasthenic for a time. Some authorities hold that the disease is not influenza at all, but another condition, for which an appropriate name has not yet been found.

A marked tendency to boils and carbuncles is characteristic of the present epidemic.

NURSING ECHOES.

Inquiries have been made by members of the Nurses' Co-operation, 22, Langham Street, as to the meaning of the following letter and card, which have been sent round to members of the Nursing Staff:—

"The Committee of Management have agreed that a Subscription of one guinea per annum should be claimed from all Sisters who wish to use the Howard de Walden Home as a residence. Will you please fill in and return to me the enclosed card as early as possible. (Secretary.)"

CARD.

"Do you wish to become a member of the Howard de Walden Home, for which the Subscription in future will be one guinea per annum, payable in the January of each year.

"Please say 'Yes' or 'No,' and sign your name."

We suggest that the Nurses should make inquiries from their own Committee of Management.

We understand that up to January 1st, 1920, "Nurses' Home and Club" was the title of 35, Langham Street; after that date the words "and Club" were omitted, and the subscription which is usual in the case of a Club was not paid. Whether the Committee of Management intend to make it a Club again, or whether, withholding that privilege, they intend to enforce the guinea for residence, can only be elucidated by the Co-operation itself.

It is not quite clear that a nurse can become a member of a "Home"; the word "Inmate" is more often associated with that word.

At a meeting of the Hammersmith District Nursing Association recently held at Carnforth Lodge for the purpose of receiving the amounts obtained by collectors on behalf of the Association, the Mayor (Councillor Marshall Hays, J.P.) announced that the negotiations had been completed for the purchase of Clifton House, Mall Road, as the new Home of the nurses of the Association. That would mean parting with one or two of the houses in Shepherd's Bush Road, but not with the clinic. The acquisition of Clifton House, and carrying out alterations, would need a lot of money, and they would want further funds.

The Leicestershire Insurance Committee has adopted a nursing scheme for members of approved societies, and has circularised the

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