

vomiting. The patient may turn over on his side, draw up his legs, pull the bedclothes over him. The skin becomes warm, pulse increases in frequency, temperature slightly raised. These symptoms gradually terminate in complete convalescence, or else turn into inflammation of the brain. Sometimes it may happen that the patient may relapse into a state of unconsciousness and die, or else pass into the condition known as "cerebral irritation," and then recover, or else the brain may not resume again its normal state.

Treatment.—The patient must have perfect quiet and rest. Warmth applied to the surface by means of blankets, hot bottles, care being taken that the latter are well protected by covers, and placed on a blanket, not next the patient. Small quantities of stimulant administered, as warm tea. Alcohol is not advisable, but if the patient is dying of syncope, then brandy may be given by the rectum, and ether or strychnine injected subcutaneously.

When reaction has set in inflammation must be warded off by gentle purgatives, low diet, avoidance of stimulants, and mental exertion.

Food is administered by rectal, or nasal feeding until the patient is conscious. The amount of urine passed should be noted, and a daily specimen saved for examination; if no urine is passed, then the patient must be catheterised. All vomit must be saved for inspection, pulse carefully watched, and taken frequently. The patient should be kept in bed about three weeks, or until the brain becomes quite clear, and all signs of irritability and drowsiness have passed. The after-effects sometimes found in cases of concussion are:—Headache, confusion of thought, loss of memory, mental irritability, impaired virility, optic neuritis, atrophy, epilepsy, or even insanity. These symptoms are more likely to occur if there is found to be a predisposition to nervous diseases, and appear to be brought on by excitement, abuse of stimulants, or excessive diet.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Violet Ventris, S.R.N., Miss Mary Ramsey, S.R.N., Miss M. James, Miss P. Thomson.

Miss James defines concussion as a general disturbance of the minute particles of the brain, and a sudden interruption of its functions due to a blow or other mechanical injury.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the following and what are their effects:—(1) Anæsthetic, (2) Hypnotics, (3) Antipyretics, (4) Mydriatics, (5) Narcotics? Give an example of each.

THE NERVOUS CHILD.

In these days, when Baby Week has become an important event, when clinics of every description have been started to deal with practically every "ill that flesh is heir to," in early days, it is somewhat surprising that one very important side of the child is utterly neglected, both publicly and privately—that is, the psychological side. Should he be suffering from malnutrition he may have free milk; should teeth be wrong or his eyes need attention, school clinics will remedy the defect; but should the child have any form of nervous trouble, it and its misery are overlooked.

We ask why this should be, and find but one answer—ignorance, upon the part of those in close contact with the child; parents, school-teachers, and, one must also add, a number of members of the medical profession, have not yet realised that in children of quite tender years neurosis may express itself as emphatically as in their elders. The parent scarcely realises what is amiss. It is obvious the child is not as other children, is excitable, irritable, moody, reserved, given to exaggerated emotions, and not to be controlled or educated. In the home and at school it is a problem, an anxiety both to parents and teachers, and a bad example to other children. The general attitude adopted towards the child, once the harm has been done and the nervousness established, is that it is "spoilt" and must be "got out of its bad ways." Discipline is enforced, often for the first time in the child's life. This makes matters worse. The little person resents this unaccustomed severity, and struggles desperately against the change of attitude in those once lenient persons; becomes doubly naughty or thoroughly miserable; and, maybe, adopts some fresh way of enlisting sympathy, by headaches, sickness, or some other form of malady.

Something is taking place within the child which the bulk of the onlookers do not understand, and, for that matter, neither does the child. It is just as necessary for its welfare that this condition should be remedied as that he or she should not have decayed teeth or contract tubercle; still, as far as one knows, no clinic has yet been started for the treatment of these little sufferers, nor is the condition taken very seriously even when it arises among those who are not dependent upon clinics for the salvation of their health. "They will grow out of it" is the hope, expressed, one feels, somewhat languidly, and wonders if we are such a nation of child-lovers as we pretend to

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