

collects in the spaces between the tissue cells, causing oedema in the abdominal cavity—ascitis.

In the first case, the patient is given little, or nothing, till the kidneys are sufficiently recovered to allow urine to begin to pass, when small quantities of diluted milk can be given. No acids, no salt, and no protein—other than those contained in milk—are given, to spare the kidneys from excreting uric acid, urea and water. Therefore, a light carbohydrate, salt free diet, is given.

In the second case, urine containing albumen is passed. This causes the blood to be of a thinner, less sticky consistency than normal, and consequently it passes more readily through the walls of the vessels and collects in the inter-cellular spaces. Also, the kidneys are failing to excrete salts, and the body retains this fluid to prevent too high a concentration of these.

More albumen may be given, as in Epstein's egg diet, in order to thicken the blood, and so cause it to be retained in the vessels. Salt may be excluded to render it unnecessary for the body to retain such a large amount of fluid.

(c) DIABETES.

The body is unable to oxidise or store the sugar absorbed into the blood, and it is excreted in the urine.

The pancreas, nervous system or liver, may be affected and so cause the disease.

The treatment of mild cases consists in eliminating sugar from the diet, reducing the amount of starch and making up the caloric deficiency by increasing the amount of protein and digestible oils and fats, and the remaining bulk by giving green vegetables.

In more severe cases, Allen's starvation treatment is used until the urine is sugar free, follow by a graduated progressive diet, which must be continued after leaving hospital.

In very severe cases, Insulin, a preparation of the internal secretion of the pancreas, is given in the form of injections. This, by allowing of a fuller and more varied diet, makes life more tolerable for the patient.

Some sugar, about .06 per cent. to .1 per cent., is normally present in the blood. If too much Insulin is given, this is oxidised and the patient becomes collapsed, but is soon restored if barley sugar is taken quickly.

(d) RICKETS.

Rickets occurs in children from six months to two years. It is due to unhygienic conditions and improper feeding, caused by an excess of carbo-hydrate, too little fat and protein, and a deficiency of vitamins, especially vitamin A, in the diet.

To remedy this, plenty of fresh milk, cream, cod liver oil and orange juice should be given, and later, meat juice, cabbage and butter may be added to the diet.

Plenty of fresh air and sunlight are necessary, and the child should be allowed free movement of legs.

QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH.

Give the signs and symptoms, and nursing care, of a patient suffering from (a) Scarlet Fever, (b) Diphtheria and (c) Measles.

NURSING ECHOES.

Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses are asked to note that a notice of the Fixtures for the ensuing month appears each month in this JOURNAL immediately after the Report of the Council Meeting. We hope that all Fellows and Members will form the habit of looking for this paragraph and studying its contents, and thus keeping themselves conversant with what is going on in their College. They may otherwise miss important events.

Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, recently visited Greenwich to open the new nurses' home erected by the Greenwich Board of Guardians in connection with the Greenwich and Deptford Hospital.

The home, which will accommodate 139 nurses, and has cost £65,000 to build, apart from furnishing, is erected on high ground and commands a view of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. The building is of five floors, served by lifts, and is one of the finest institutions of its kind in London. Lawns and tennis courts are being laid out for the use of the nurses. On the ground floor is a lecture hall, three large recreation rooms, and other accommodation, and the four floors above are utilised for bedrooms.

Princess Mary was received at the entrance by the Mayor of Deptford, acting for the Mayor of Greenwich, and presented with an address of welcome, and after opening the nurses' home Her Royal Highness visited the hospital and spoke to a number of patients. A bouquet was presented by Miss Wiggins, daughter of the medical superintendent of the hospital. Gold medals were presented by Her Royal Highness to Nurse Margaret J. Greally and Nurse D. I. Ablett, and a bronze medal to Nurse R. Kirton. A number of presentations to the Princess were made by Mrs. Drapper (Mayor-elect) of Deptford.

At a luncheon given at the Forum Club in honour of Mlle. Léonie Vanhoutte and Miss Gertrude Richardson, who rendered great service to the Allies during the War, Mr. Townwe, of the United Associations of Great Britain and France, under whose auspices they visited this country, said that Mlle. Vanhoutte occupied a cell in the prison in Brussels opposite that of Edith Cavell, and saw her, and observed how sad and grave she looked by looking through a peep-hole in the door.

Miss Sybil Thorndike has been offered and accepted the part of Edith Cavell in "Dawn," Mr. Herbert Wilcox's forthcoming film, as Miss Pauline Frederick, the American film star, who had studied the part, has been summoned to the United States on urgent private business. It is fitting that the part should be undertaken by an Englishwoman, and one of the talent and reputation of Miss Sybil Thorndike.

The annual report of the Middlesex Hospital records the magnificent gift, already reported in this JOURNAL, of Dr. Essex Wynter, late senior physician, who has presented to the hospital, after his and Mrs. Wynter's deaths, his house, known as Bartholomew Manor, and two groups of sixteenth-century cottages, together with

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