

was preceded, during nearly two years, by visits made by Mlle. Chaptal at the request of the Ministry. In this field, as in many others, private enterprise led the way to public service.

It is true that during the transition period which followed the Decree of 1922, when the curricula were being changed, and becoming gradually standardised by those schools desiring to prepare for State examinations, delicate questions arose in connection with the sisterhoods providing the nursing service of most of our civil hospitals in the provinces.

Who could have been better qualified to make the fundamental reforms understood and accepted than Mlle. Chaptal, who understands both the hospital administration and the religious groups by whom she is loved and respected? Otherwise there might have been many problems to solve in the routine of the Administrative Committee of the Civil Hospitals and the rules governing the religious congregations.

Mlle. Chaptal in her visits always met with the greatest understanding from the Hospital Committees, and the religious congregations facilitated in every way possible the disinterested mission which she had undertaken. Following up this work and in accordance with the regulations enforced by the administration, visits to the schools have been continued by the nurses in the Central Nursing Bureau.

ALIEN NURSES.

The *American Journal of Nursing* gives the following information of American Regulations for "Alien Nurses."

A graduate nurse from another country may enter the United States (a) as a visitor, who may remain six months or for a specified time indicated. If she takes employment during this time it is illegal and she may be deported; (b) as a student. If she takes employment it is also illegal unless it is taken in order to maintain her student's status (on holidays, nights, or Sundays); (c) graduate nurses from Canada or other non-quota countries (mentioned above) who wish to obtain employment in the United States must secure from an American consulate a permanent immigration visa. In order to be given this visa she must present evidence that she is not likely to become a public charge. Professional nurses applying either for temporary or permanent admission are specifically exempted from the contract labour provisions of the immigration laws.

Graduate nurses from countries on a quota basis, for instance, England, Scotland, and France, must have a quota visa and can be admitted only under the quota allotted for that country.

CANCER. CIVILIZATION. DEGENERATION.*

THE NATURE, CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF CANCER.

The Author in his introduction to this well-written treatise on Cancer has outlined the early research work which has been done to investigate this disease, the cause of which remains an unsolved problem in spite of its increasing mortality.

* CANCER. CIVILIZATION. DEGENERATION. The Nature, Causes and Prevention of Cancer. By John Cope. Price 15s. net. Published by H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd.

The fact is put forward that injury and irritants have been considered the contributory cause and "that bruising as in an apple predisposes to the settlement of the microbe which actually causes it," but it obviously is a disease of the civilised world and as yet no bacterial evidence has been proved.

The early chapters deal with disease in general: (a) Those that have been scourges and are becoming rare, *e.g.*, Smallpox, etc., through Prophylactic and Hygiene measures. (b) Those diseases that now are rapidly increasing, *e.g.*, Appendicitis, Diabetes—and figures are also given of the increase of mental defectives, nervous subjects, dental caries, etc., in spite of improved conditions.

It is interesting to note that Cancer mortality has increased by 20 per cent. in the last 20 years.

The nature of cancer in its earliest recognition was a painless swelling resembling a crab, and later research has proved that when cancer is scattered about the body the secondary focus consists of cells derived from the organ first affected, and this then suggests that cancer is part of the man himself and not of bacterial origin.

The suggested causes of Cancer are Chemical, Actinic, and mechanical, but the Author points out that these are not sufficient in themselves as these stimuli may produce Cancer in some parts of the body and not in others and in some people and not in others.

A sound basis of the causes of cancer is given in the chapter on predisposing conditions and the outstanding principles of disuse or degeneration of tissue through non-usage of organs given us for functions which are not performed. Cancer of the breast is far more common in unmarried than in married women—in fact, the more lactation has taken place the less likelihood there appears of cancer resulting to the individual. Equally so is the uterus the site of cancer more frequently in the nonipara, and of course with civilisation comes the low birth rate and the introduction of contraceptives. The artificial feeding of infants has nearly taken the place of Nature's method so that the breast is getting less usage as an organ.

An excellent chapter on signs and symptoms of cancer show that there must be a group of primitive cells which collect and cause the painless swelling and these cells in course of time extend along lymph channels to the glands and thus cancer is spread.

The stimuli may therefore be either of the above causes predisposed by inadequate use, senile degeneration or hereditary, etc.

Cancer destruction from the Author's point of view can only be efficiently carried out by Surgery in the earliest possible state or the application of Actinic rays, the treatment of which depends on the advance of the disease and the parts affected.

Prevention by removal of precancerous states would be completely effectual as also would the return of the nation to its earlier healthy days, when dental caries was unknown and the jaw had its normal shape.

Prevention of degeneration of organs is ensured by usage of these organs to the full, not forgetting the importance of mastication with the teeth.

The author points out the dangers to the female of a masculine life for which she is totally unfitted, and the effect of this life on her stature and natural functions, increasing the tendency to cancer by disuse.

The education of the public therefore in this matter is of vital importance, as also is the early diagnosis of the disease. Those under suspicion should seek surgical advice at the earliest moment before Cancer cells have had time to migrate. The diagrams are very enlightening in this book, and one feels the book needs re-reading to absorb its valuable material.

H. G. B.

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