

patient begins to get "hungry." Some doctors order semi-solid diet throughout. If fluid, 3 to 4 pints of milk are given daily at regular intervals. If not easily digested it may be diluted with water or barley water. If milk cannot be taken a 5 per cent. solution of gelatine is given instead.

Albumen water, beef tea or chicken-broth may be given, if the latter do not increase diarrhoea.

Thirst may be relieved by water, lemonade, orangeade or Potus imperialis. At the end of 3rd or 4th week (if no complications) add cornflour, Bengers food, junket, custard, whipped eggs, gradually give white fish, mashed potatoes, minced chicken, milk puddings. Keep on a low diet during convalescence, and give normal diet when recovery is complete.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitor receives Honourable Mention: Miss F. Wells, S.R.N., 195, Blenheim Street, Hull.

QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH.

Which of the Infectious Diseases may be spread by "carriers"? Explain how this may be brought about in each case mentioned.

POLIOMYELITIS.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ADVICE TO SCHOOLS.

The Ministry of Health has issued the following statement:—

There has been since August a slight rise (which was anticipated) in the incidence of an epidemic disease of the nervous system named poliomyelitis (an infection which may sometimes result in "infant paralysis"), though up to the present the cases have as a whole appeared singly and widely scattered.

The Ministry of Health have, however, received certain inquiries as to the wisdom or expediency of closing residential schools in which such isolated cases may have occurred. The Ministry of Health are definitely of the opinion that the balance of advantage is in favour of not closing a residential school in which poliomyelitis has appeared. If the school be closed any potential infectiousness of the disease is more widely distributed, and passes beyond such means of supervision and control as are furnished in a well-equipped residential school conducted on hygienic lines.

This of course is academic advice, but how unnatural. How oblivious of human feeling! Imagine parents being willing to risk the infection of their sons with this terrible disease (of which medical science is as yet so ignorant) which might result in maiming them for life.

Fathers and mothers are not made that way.
Blood is thicker than water.

TO PREVENT NUTRITIONAL ANÆMIA.

A Ministry of Health letter to local authorities and maternity and child welfare authorities states that nutritional anæmia in infants living under conditions of city life is attributed to a deficiency of available iron and possibly also of copper. The important feature is susceptibility to infection, particularly a liability to colds, otorrhoea, bronchitis and enteritis. There is ample evidence that the administration of iron ammonium citrate to infants or the feeding of infants with milk to which iron has been added considerably reduces the incidence of nutritional anæmia and raises the resistance to infections. Authorities which supply dried milk are directed to obtain supplies of the medicated kinds.

A MOMENTOUS ELECTION.

Before our next issue, Registered Nurses will have received their Ballot Papers for the Quinquennial Election of Candidates on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—and by their votes will express their decision on the momentous question of whether they approve of One Portal to the Register, by the retention of exclusive power to examine by the General Nursing Council, as now provided under the Statutory Rules—or whether the Recommendation of *The Lancet* Commission that "The Preliminary State Examination of the General Nursing Council should be divided into two parts: Part I—Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene; and Part II—Theory and Practice of Nursing; and that 'Part I' should as a rule be taken before, but not more than two years before the Nurse enters the ward." The only way to vote in support of the policy you approve is to secure a reply from Candidates whose names are inserted on the Ballot Paper, which policy, if elected, they mean to support. We advise Registered Nurses to submit the following question to each candidate and ask for a reply:—

"Are you in favour of the One Portal examination to the State Register of Nurses, or not? Please reply "Yes" or "No." Enclose an addressed and stamped envelope for reply.

The Registered Nurses should not be governed by a narrow caucus of persons nominated by three Nurses' Organisations. This ticket system, as advocated at a Meeting held at the College of Nursing on Saturday, October 22nd, to receive names to fill every vacant seat on the General Nursing Council, has caused dissension in College ranks, and we hope it will be the last time that powerful Associations of Matrons and the College Council will attempt to secure absolute power to control the General Nursing Council and govern Registered Nurses as a body. From published reports of the proceedings at the meeting there was keen diversity of opinion as to the selection of candidates, and it is to be hoped some independent candidates may be elected, whose sole aim will be the welfare of Nurses in training, and the maintenance of the Professional Status of Nurses through their own governing body, which alone should have power to define standards both of education and conduct. Dual control by nominees of powerful Organisations of Nurses deprives Registered Nurses of wholesome independence of thought and action.

The names put forward for election by the Joint Committee are as follows: Miss Alsop, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Letitia Clark, Miss M. A. Gullan, Miss E. M. Musson, Miss A. Lloyd-Still and Miss Sparshott, who are serving on the present Council, and Miss Baggallay, Miss Burgess, Miss Darbyshire, Miss Innes, and Miss MacManus.

We have given editorial prominence to the admirable letter from Miss M. Gullan, the experienced Sister-Tutor at St. Thomas's Hospital, on the vital question of the One Portal Examination to the Register and the maintenance of control by Registered Nurses of their own Profession, which we hope will be carefully studied before our readers record their votes for the new General Nursing Council.

The Ballot Papers go out on November 16th, and must be returned not later than 12 noon, December 7th.

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