

be able to recognize and interpret the signs of laryngeal obstruction and must have a tracheotomy kit and laryngoscope close at hand.

Another complication peculiar to total thyroidectomy is tetany, the result of damage to the parathyroid glands and consequent decrease in serum calcium. The earliest evidence of the presence of this condition consists in numbness and tingling in the fingers, toes, ears or nose. If tetany develops at all, these symptoms occur on the second to fifth day. If the patient is examined at this time, a positive Chvostek sign should be elicited by tapping the cheek a centimetre or two in front of the ear lobe. If the test is positive, the corner of the mouth will be pulled sharply to that side by contraction of the muscles of that cheek. Unless the parathyroid insufficiency is treated, the above symptoms will increase in severity and the Trousseau sign will appear, *i.e.*, carpopedal spasm distal to a tourniquet around the arm. With further progress of this condition spontaneous convulsions may ensue and the patient may have a fatal exodus. It is essential for the nurse to question the patient frequently as to paresthesias and to elicit and interpret Chvostek and Trousseau signs.

This brief presentation can merely call attention to some of the complications which may follow total ablation of the thyroid gland in patients with heart disease. It is quite evident that during the immediate post-operative period the patient's fate is to a great extent in the hands of the nurse.—From the *American Journal of Nursing*.

DONATIONS TO THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS FUND, N.C.N.

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From The East Midland Group of the Association of Hospital Matrons, sent by Miss M. H. Gammie, A.R.R.C., Matron, Mansfield and District Hospital		5	5
Already acknowledged	334	16	7
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It is exceedingly gratifying that gifts are still being received for the Scholarships Fund of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. £300 has already been sent to the Treasurer for the Scholarship awarded by the Council to Miss Kathleen Whitsed, Royal Infirmary, Leicester, who is now in residence at Florence Nightingale International House, and no doubt busily at work at Bedford College, where we feel sure she will appreciate association with her fellow scholars from so many parts of the world, and the varied and most interesting instruction to be assimilated before the valued Florence Nightingale Certificate can be acquired.

But until the Foundation is adequately endowed the Maintenance Fund should be kept well in mind. Financial support through this Fund will be required for some years, we have no doubt.

Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary I.C.N., has recently spent a few days at St. Thomas's Hospital in consultation with the President, on Grand Council and Congress business. Together with the Chairman of the Congress Arrangements Committee it was agreed that active organization was now necessary.

NURSING ECHOES.

The letter of Fr. Murray, of the Community of the Resurrection, which appears in our correspondence columns, will be read with interest by nurses who have been attracted by the Religious Life, and have yet realised the exacting nature of their chosen profession, and, regarding it as their life-long vocation, have felt that none of the existing Communities would meet their needs, for they might, and almost inevitably would, be under the direction of superiors not themselves trained nurses, and, further, they might be assigned to work other than nursing, and thus be unable to exercise those talents consecrated to the service of the sick, for which service they have been specially trained.

The knowledge, therefore, that the Nursing Community of Christ the Consoler, of which Fr. Murray is Warden, was, in 1929, founded expressly for State Registered Nurses, gives cause for rejoicing, affording to such nurses an opportunity for testing their vocation for the Life of Religion "offering their gift of nursing as a special manner of dedication under the Three Vows." The Community at present comprises four Sisters, professed by Bishop Perrin on St. Agnes' Day, January 21st, 1932, five Novices and two Postulants, working at the Mother House (St. George's House, 6, North Hill, Highgate, N.) and several Aspirants. It also affiliates Associates, one of whose Rules is to "pray regularly for the increase of a sense of vocation in the Nursing Profession," a service to nurses and Nursing of which the value cannot be computed. Many Registered Nurses are feeling to-day that the great need of their profession is to re-capture the spirit of devotion to the sick which inspired Religious Sisters for centuries in the past, and to combine with it the knowledge and up-to-date methods of the present.

Besides being the Mother House of the Community, St. George's House is also a Nursing Home for medical, rest and convalescent cases, where the patients may be attended by their own doctors, or be under the care of the medical adviser of the Community.

Anyone who would like to know more of the Community and the interesting work which it carries on, would be welcomed at the Mother House.

One of the Calendars to which we look forward each year with keen anticipation is the Grenfell Calendar, which is always a thing of beauty, besides containing many wise sayings by Sir Wilfred Grenfell, who, as our readers know, has worked for over forty years to help the fishermen of Labrador and Newfoundland, has established hospitals, orphanages, schools, agricultural stations, and an industrial department, which first trains the people in handicraft, then sells their work for them.

The Calendar contains fifty-three reproductions of real photographs of Labrador and Newfoundland, of which we present one of patients at Cartwright, which our readers will agree is charming.

Here are two of Sir Wilfred Grenfell's *obiter dicta*: "Difficulties, hard physical work and simplicity are still invaluable assets in evolving the world's most important product—a real man."

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