

After describing the observation of the patient, and the general information which can be obtained from a simple series of observations, the author states:—

"Three signs remain to be discussed, the pulse, the temperature and the respiration. The importance of a careful record of these cannot be over-emphasised as they supply most necessary information in almost all diseases, and their observation and recording are left largely in the hands of the nurse."

#### Bacteriology

In regard to bacteriology, we read that "the study of micro-organisms is a comparatively new science, and rapid developments have occurred in the last few years and will probably continue for many more." A chapter is devoted to this subject which is further illuminated by coloured and other plates. "The poisonous effects of bacteria show marked variations. Sometimes their virulence, as it is called, is so slight that the patient scarcely notices the effects of their invasion, whilst at other times this virulence is so powerful that death ensues within a few hours."

The modes of entry of bacteria and the protective mechanism of the body are also described; the last considerations in this chapter deal with the uses to which bacteriology can be put in the treatment of disease. "The term vaccination may be used to include the administration of vaccines, although this is more commonly described as inoculation. A vaccine consists of a number of dead bacteria made into a suspension with water. The bacteria are counted carefully so that the exact dose given is known, and the amount is gradually increased in successive doses until a dose can eventually be given which would normally cause serious effects. The injections are given subcutaneously.

"Each time the bacteria are injected the body responds by producing antibodies, which protect it against the effects of the next dose of vaccine, and so as the dose gradually increases the amount of antibodies also increases. It is, of course, necessary that the bacteria should be dead, as injection of living organisms would allow them to multiply in the body and produce serious disease and death."

#### Infections

Under this heading septicaemia and pyaemia, toxæmia, erysipelas, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, dysentery, cholera, rheumatic fever, hydrophobia, influenza, plague, anthrax, typhus fever, tetanus, scarlet fever, measles, German measles, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria, chickenpox, smallpox, are all dealt with as to their treatment, complications, and nursing, in a very valuable chapter. The manner in which they can be prevented from assuming epidemic form is also described in detail. "This is one of the most important aspects of these diseases, and close study is required to determine the most effective way of stamping out any particular disease." The great danger of "carriers" of infectious diseases to the community is also noted. "There is little doubt that they are responsible for spreading disease on a wide scale. Another common cause of spread is through the medium of "contacts," persons who have been living in the same house or during the course of their work have been closely associated with the patient. These persons, in the case of any serious infectious disease, require isolation and observation for a period longer than the maximum incubation period of the disease."

Concerning tuberculosis, we read that although its occurrence has lessened and its mortality decreased with modern methods, and the attention given to public health, it still remains a scourge to civilisation. "Every nurse should have some knowledge of its nature and of those facts which help in combating the disease, both in individuals and in the community, for much may be done to stamp out

this disorder by the spread of knowledge amongst lay people.

"All forms of tuberculosis are now known to be due to an infection with the *Bacillus Tuberculosis* discovered by Koch. Several distinct varieties of this organism have been recognised, only two of which need mention here. (1) The human form; (2) the bovine form.

"The human bacillus is responsible for tuberculosis of the lungs (phthisis) in almost all cases, but may also affect other tissues such as the lymphatic glands, bones and joints. The bovine bacillus, primarily affecting cattle, is responsible for many cases of tuberculosis of the peritoneum, bones, joints, and lymphatic glands in man. . . .

"Inhalation is the method by which the lungs become infected in most cases, while tuberculous food, especially milk, is responsible for many cases of tuberculosis of the peritoneum, bones, joints and lymphatic glands."

It follows that now that milk is being provided so widely for school children the most scrupulous and conscientious care should be given to ensure that only safe milk, which, in the present condition of the cattle in this country, may be taken to mean milk *efficiently* pasteurised, should be used.

We have only space for the foregoing examples of the teaching and quality of this admirable book, which we cordially commend alike to sister-tutors and to student nurses. The numerous beautiful coloured and other illustrations add greatly to its value. M. B.

#### INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS.

The 2nd International Conference of the International Guild of Hospital Librarians was held in Berne from June 7th to 11th. Delegates came from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Norway and Switzerland, and other countries which were not actually represented sent interesting reports about their work, together with good wishes for the success of the Conference.

Very many aspects of hospital library work were discussed, and it is evident that steady progress has been made since the Paris Conference in 1936.

Three reports were presented by the British Section of the Guild. Mrs. M. E. Roberts (Hon. Secretary) spoke on "Methods of Establishing Hospital Libraries" and papers were sent by Mrs. Raymond and Mrs. Beddington on "Methods of Collecting Books" and "The Hospital Librarian, her Recruitment and Status" respectively. There were some interesting accounts of library work in sanatoria for tubercular patients, and during one discussion it was described how experiments in Paris have shown that risk of infection is fairly negligible. Great interest was aroused by Dr. Wyrsh's address on "Books and Reading for Mental Patients."

During the Conference an important meeting of Swiss delegates was held, at which it was strongly recommended that a representative Committee should be formed for the purpose of developing hospital libraries in Switzerland and that this should be carried out under the auspices of *Veska*, which it was further suggested should be affiliated to the International Guild—a recommendation which added to the undoubted success of the Congress.

Dr. Sand, the President of the International Guild, at the end of his report announced that an invitation had been received to hold the next Conference in London in 1940. The delegates unanimously agreed to this.

All the papers read in English at the Conference will be reprinted in numbers of the *Book Trolley*, the organ of the Guild, together with résumés of the French and German papers; the latter will be published in full in the *Journal of Veska*, the Swiss Hospitals Association, which may be obtained from Dr. Otto Binswanger, Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, or the Hon. Sec., 48, Queen's Gardens, London, W.2.

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