

On the other hand the Nursing Profession, as such, which is in a position to afford useful and authoritative information concerning its own conditions, is entirely ignored in this booklet, issued by a Government Department, and for which, therefore, the Government must be held responsible.

This continual ignoring of professional opinion is arousing a steadily mounting sense of injury in the ranks of State Registered Nurses, and we hope that the Government will realise that it is unwise to ignore the right of an indispensable Profession comprising over 80,000 skilled workers to a voice in matters concerning that profession.

The pamphlet can be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., price 4d. net.

## PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

### "SURGERY FOR NURSES."

The third edition of "Surgery for Nurses," by Mr. Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.(Eng.), Surgeon and Lecturer to Nurses at the Royal Northern Hospital, etc., Examiner in Surgery, University of Bristol and the General Nursing Council, and by Mr. R. J. McNeill Love, M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), Surgeon Royal Northern and Metropolitan Hospitals, Hunterian Professor Royal College of Surgeons, and Examiner in Surgery General Nursing Council, has been published by Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd., London, and will be found a most useful book both to Sister-Tutors and Student Nurses, having been brought by the authors completely up to date. It, moreover, contains 357 admirable illustrations, including 39 which are coloured, and which add greatly to the value of the text.

Each chapter concludes with questions which have been set in various examinations by the General Nursing Council, and the authors state in their preface that "although to the casual observer the ground which they have covered may seem somewhat extensive and the material advanced yet a glance at the questions concluding each chapter indicates the exacting requirements now demanded of a nurse's surgical knowledge."

In the chapter on Bacteriology and Specific Infections, micro-organisms are classified according to the manner in which they multiply, and are divided into three main groups—bacteria, fungi, and protozoa.

"1. *Bacteria* multiply by simply splitting into two portions; they comprise the most important group of organisms and are classified according to their shape, *i.e.*, (a) Cocci which are rounded in shape; (b) Bacilli, or rod-shaped organisms which sometimes form spores; (c) Spirilla, so called because they are curved, wavy, or spiral. Thus the organism which causes cholera is comma-shaped while the spirochæte of syphilis is shaped like a corkscrew.

"Most bacilli are aerobic, which means that they require oxygen for their growth. Others, such as tetanus, are anaerobic and die in the presence of air or oxygen.

"(2) *Fungi* are organisms which are capable of fermentation. They multiply by forming buds, which when mature separate from the parent organisms.

"(3) *Protozoa* are unicellular animals, and are chiefly concerned in the causation of tropical diseases. Amœbic dysentery and malaria are examples of infection by protozoa."

It is pointed out that "organisms abound in and around us. Many are harmless and even useful. Harmful organisms can be divided into three groups," these being pathogenic, putrefactive, and fermentative. The authors then proceed to discuss "immunity"; the power of resistance of the individual to invasion is either natural or acquired.

"Natural immunity against organisms varies in different

people, and in the same individuals from time to time according to their state of health. . . .

"Acquired immunity is either active or passive. In some diseases active immunity follows previous infection, as in the case of smallpox, and, to a lesser extent, typhoid and scarlet fever. Advantage is taken of this fact to vaccinate or inoculate a patient, so that his immunity is raised against certain diseases."

"Passive immunity is obtained by injecting into a patient serum which contains antibodies (or antidotes to toxins) obtained from an animal." A classical example of this are the antitoxins which neutralise the toxins of diphtheria. "If a horse is inoculated with a small dose of diphtheria organisms it develops a mild attack of that disease, and in the blood substances (antitoxins) are formed which neutralise the toxins of diphtheria. Increasing large doses are given until the horse's blood is saturated with these antitoxins. Some of the horse's blood is withdrawn and the serum separated. The serum when injected into a patient suffering from diphtheria neutralises the toxins, and the mortality of diphtheria has fallen from over 30 per cent. to under 3 per cent. as a result.

"Anti-tetanic serum is another example whereby passive immunity is obtained, and is chiefly used as a preventive. All patients suffering from wounds which might harbour tetanus bacilli must always be given a prophylactic dose."

It will be realised that this chapter gives a very clear idea of micro-organisms, their classification, the way in which they produce disease, the modern methods of prevention, or of neutralising the effects of disease.

The importance of understanding the changes which occur in tissues as a result of inflammation is emphasised, and the five typical symptoms of inflammation—pain, heat, redness, swelling, and loss of function—are related, also the five ways in which inflammation terminates, *i.e.*, by resolution, fibrosis, suppuration, ulceration or gangrene, the treatment being to remove the cause. Careful study of this chapter is recommended. There follows a chapter on tumours, benign and malignant. "A benign tumour is encapsulated, does not disseminate and merely causes symptoms by its size and position."

Malignant tumours may be locally malignant and destroy tissue by infiltration, or disseminate by various means which are enumerated.

"Although radium has not altogether satisfied its early promise yet encouraging results are obtained in some situations, notably the mouth, pharynx, cervix uteri, breast, and skin.

"The beneficial effect of radium depends upon the fact that malignant cells are more sensitive to radiations than are the cells of the normal tissues."

From the more general aspects of surgery and the underlying causes for the necessity for surgical treatment the book proceeds to deal with diseases requiring surgical intervention in various parts of the body, the duties of the nurse as to preparation, the operation itself, and the subsequent nursing.

Hæmorrhage and blood vessels are dealt with at some length. The signs and symptoms of severe hæmorrhage, the treatment of primary arterial hæmorrhage, concerning which we read: "Severe primary arterial hæmorrhage is a surgical calamity of the first magnitude, and the nurse must know precisely what methods are available for its treatment, and how and when to apply them." First-aid treatment by direct digital pressure is described and the warning given that in the rare cases in which this method is necessary it must be applied boldly. The common pressure points and the methods of compression used are then enumerated.

We are told that blood transfusion is of much greater value than saline infusion. In severe cases of hæmorrhage incompatibility between the bloods of the recipient and donor was the main cause of failure in the past, so that at

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