

thin semi-solid cereal, butterscotch (to suck), cocoa and chocolate, tea, barley water, etc.

Before convalescent diet is attained the patient has been gradually allowed fish or chicken purée, potato and vegetable purée, apple purée, baked or boiled custard, eggs lightly cooked, thin bread and butter, etc., leading to convalescent diet.

The more liberal diet is not suited to severe attacks profound toxæmia, or deficient digestion. Fizzy drinks should be avoided. Beef tea and meat extracts act as laxatives so should be withheld where diarrhoea is present. Alcohol should only be given when ordered by the doctor.

Even sitting up in bed should be accomplished only gradually and not till the doctor allows it. All excitement should be guarded against in convalescence. Return to strength may be prolonged and retarded by complications.

When permitted to leave the room the patient should have a bath, then in a clean blanket change to a fresh room and clean clothes.

The room should then be disinfected, toys, books, papers, etc., burned. Carpets, blinds, etc., treated with steam or formalin.

Flies and insects should be kept from room and patient by every means.

THE TYPHOID REPORT.

WATER BORNE INFECTION IN WELL.

The report on the Public Inquiry by Mr. Harold Murphy K.C., into the outbreak of typhoid fever at Croydon has been published (Stationery Office, 4d. net). The general conclusion is thus stated:—

"The immediate cause of the outbreak was a portion of the public water supply becoming infected by the typhoid bacillus. The infected portion was that derived from a chalk well at Addington. How that well became infected is a question that cannot be answered with absolute certainty, but all the circumstances and probabilities point so strongly in one direction that I feel justified in coming to a definite conclusion on the subject. That conclusion is that the well was infected by the fact that at the end of September and during October, 1937, men, one of whom was an active carrier of typhoid, were working in the well and that, during large parts of such period, water from the well, unfiltered and unchlorinated, was being pumped to supply."

There was both misunderstanding and lack of communication between the responsible officers of the corporation in connection with the work. Dr. Holden, the Medical Officer of Health, was never informed that the work was being carried out at all. He was in complete ignorance of it until after the outbreak had taken place. His duties did not include any direct responsibility for water, but he was sent monthly analyses of the water from certain wells and reservoirs, and had frequently made careful comments upon these and advised about chlorination.

"I cannot help thinking," Mr. Murphy states, "that if Dr. Holden had been informed that men were working in the well and that simultaneously filtration and chlorination had ceased, his advice would have been sufficient to put an end to such a state of affairs."

Mr. Murphy points out that the duties of the Borough Engineer covered so wide a range of matters as to make it impossible for him to give detailed personal attention to the water supply.

What we specially deplore is the high rate of deaths in connection with this outbreak, as typhoid fever is specially responsive to skilled and intelligent nursing. Was this care always available? We fear not.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S JUBILEE.

GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Department of Health,
Parliamentary Library Buildings,
Wellington, N.Z.

January 12th, 1938.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—I was very pleased to see by the last issue of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* which I have received that an address of appreciation is to be presented to you in tribute for what you have done for the nursing world both nationally and internationally.

I would like to add my appreciation on behalf of the New Zealand nurses to this memento.

What an extraordinarily interesting life yours must appear in retrospect. And probably it is not until a new era has developed that the force you have been for so many years in the nursing world will be truly appreciated.

Those of us who were privileged to be in England from New Zealand will look back always on 1937 as being one of the epics of our professional lives.

With very deep appreciation of your work and my best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely,
MARY LAMBIE.

GREETINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. S.A. NURSING JOURNAL.

Official Organ of the Trained Nurses' Association.

Cape Town,
South Africa,

February 16th, 1938.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—It is with pleasure I received the copy of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* with the account of the celebration of your Jubilee and the presentation of the Address of Thanks so nobly earned.

May I add my contribution to the need of gratitude so beautifully expressed in the Address, and say that South Africa also desires to associate itself with the tribute paid to so dauntless a leader.

May you long retain your magnificent powers of mind and body to continue the work so finely conceived and so nobly achieved.

Yours, with sincere good wishes,
H. C. HORWOOD, Editor,
South African Nursing Journal.

We have received these very kind letters with sincere pleasure, the more so that our professional association with the nurses of these great Dominions is of long standing.

Mrs. Grace Neill

The late Mrs. Grace Neill, then Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums in New Zealand, was an honorary member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and was present at the Banquet held in London in July, 1899, and attended the Conference on that fateful 1st of July, at which the International Council of Nurses was founded, and was a member of the Provisional Committee as New Zealand's representative.

The fine work of Mrs. Neill in the organisation and promotion of State Registration of Nurses in New Zealand, in which Dominion the first Act for the Registration of Nurses in the world became law, is well known.

We corresponded with her for several years during the provisional period of the I.C.N. and delightful representatives have attended from New Zealand at every Congress.

Sister Henrietta of Kimberley.

Nursing in South Africa owes inspiration to the late Sister Henrietta of Kimberley. We came into touch with her *on paper* through the late Miss Elizabeth Loch. We enlisted her sympathy for nursing organisation in 1894, since which time wonders in the evolution of nursing organisation in South Africa have been accomplished by fine leaders warmly interested in the I.C.N.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)