

order to deal efficiently with an epidemic of Cholera should it take place in England. The members of the Royal British Nurses' Association were only waiting for the word of command, so that when it became known officially that a Roll had been opened at the office, upon which any trained Nurse willing to nurse cholera cases, should her services be required, could inscribe her name, the greatest pleasure and enthusiasm was evinced.

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A NOTICE was sent out for the Association on Tuesday, inviting the Matrons and Nurses of the Poor Law Infirmaries and Nursing Institutions, to attend a lecture on the Nursing of Cholera, to be given by Dr. HERON, at 20, Hanover Square, on Thursday, the 1st inst., and so keen an interest was shown in the subject, that more than 400 Nurses attended, and derived, I feel sure, much benefit from the very lucid and practical instruction which they received.

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DR. HERON traced the disease through its well-known symptoms beginning with diarrhoea, vomiting more and more severe, going on to the second stage of pain in abdomen, which spreads to the limbs, soon assuming the form of cramp, when the pain becomes agonising, the constant drain of fluid by mouth and bowel, the patient's complaint of heat when in reality the temperature is below normal, the stage of collapse or cold sweats going on to semi-stupor, and the tepid stage of collapse, when the temperature rises quickly to 100 or higher, the patient becoming unconscious, the skin dark, lips blue, the extremities wrinkled from loss of fluid, from which condition few patients recover.

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IN the first stage Dr. HERON permits the Nurse to give 20 drops of laudanum and 15 drops again in half an hour if necessary, to place a poultice on the abdomen, and to give ice plentifully, until the arrival of the medical man.

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THE Nurse's chief duty in nursing cholera is the same as in nursing typhoid fever—scrupulous cleanliness and the thorough disinfection of all excretions for which strong carbolic acid, 1 in 5, or perchloride of mercury, 1 in 1000, should be used. Dr. HERON gave the following simple and efficacious rules for the Nurse's management of these cases:—

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THAT, if possible, the patient should be nursed in a large and airy room—in which there should be no superfluous furniture and no carpet; that floor and

furniture should be disinfected daily; that the bedding should be covered by a large mackintosh sheet hanging almost to the floor—which could be kept thoroughly disinfected, should a patient not be able to pass the excretions in a pan; that an air-tight pan should be kept in readiness for the reception of bed linen, in which strong disinfectant should be constantly standing, from whence all linen should be placed in a waterproof bag for removal for further disinfecting and cleansing.

\* \* \*

THE Nurse herself should live by the strictest sanitary laws. No Nurse should attempt to do the work of two. She should have rest, fresh air, and good food, and be scrupulously clean in person—wearing at all times in the sick room a waterproof overall, and rubber over-shoes, which could be constantly disinfected. Upon leaving the sick room, the hands were to be steeped for a minute or two in carbolic, 1 in 20, or corrosive sublimate 1 in 2000, and then well washed in hot soap and water; and the Nurse has to remember at all times that upon her conscientious performance of these duties depended very largely whether her patient became a centre of infection or not.

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THE Lecture was repeated by Dr. HERON on Monday to nearly as large an audience of Nurses. Dr. THORNE THORNE, C.B., the head of the Medical Department of the Local Government Board, was present. In a short address, he expressed the personal pleasure and interest in which he took in this movement, and his belief that the whole nation was deeply indebted to H.R.H. Princess CHRISTIAN and the Royal British Nurses' Association for thus initiating an organisation which, if cholera became epidemic, would prove of incalculable value in the prevention of disease, and the saving of life.

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MR. ERNEST HART, Chairman of the National Health Society, delivered an address at 53, Berners Street, on "Cholera, and our protection from it," to a large and interested audience, on Thursday last, a full report of which appeared in last week's *British Medical Journal*. He specially mentioned the fact that the administrative staff of the Royal British Nurses' Association were organising a roll of volunteer Nurses, and thought that branch of work might safely be left in their hands. I should advise all Nurses to read this most instructive address.

WORTH KNOWING.—That Tolphite is the only dusting powder exclusively manufactured for the Nursery. Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S., says: "All the conditions which Hygiene recognises as important and essential in such a powder are represented in Tolphite; it is invaluable for infants in preventing excoriation and chafing." Mrs. Hilton says her Nurses are charmed with it. Post free, for eight or fifteen stamps.—Dodd Brothers, Stamford Hill, London.

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