

then, in time, become wetted; the urine with which they are laden scalds and irritates the skin, and if, in addition, the napkins are kept on too long, we get a herpetic eruption manufactured!

Some of my readers may think that such gross mismanagement *cannot* be, that I am dwelling too tediously on the subject, but a wide experience has shown me that such things *are*, and in the interest of my little patients I have ever lifted up my voice and pen against them. The miseries of the disease fall perhaps with more severity upon male than female infants, but it is hard for both.

The nates and genitals, excoriated by the urine, present a fiery red appearance, with here and there patches of white itchy vesicles, which, unless *prompt* measures are taken, break into sores, making an already distressing condition worse. Now what shall we do for our little patient whose pitiful cries attest his sufferings? Our first step, obviously, is to remove the *cause* of the trouble, the wet napkin and the draw sheets. And very *soft old* napkins must be used whilst the surfaces are tender. I do not recommend the napkinettes made by the absorbent pad makers; they are too *hot*, and when they become soaked they retain the urine and add to the scalding misery. Observe the instructions I have given with respect to the arranging of the napkins—doubly necessary here. The buttocks must be washed, *every* time the infant is changed, with *warm* water, *soft* if possible, and if this is not obtainable, soften the water in this wise: Take a *small* packet of Californian Borax and dissolve it in *one quart* of *boiling* water, and, stirring frequently, let it stand till cold. Put a tablespoonful of this solution to the water you use when changing the napkins; soap (I prefer the *best* white curd soap) a soft piece of sponge, and *lightly* cleanse the parts; wring the soap out of the sponge, and then sponge *without* soap, and wipe the skin dry with a very soft diaper towel; then powder with the Pulv. Zinci Ol. Co., to be put into a muslin bag and dusted over the parts. Do not use an ordinary powder puff, as it is important that the powder should be applied in a state of very fine division to be thoroughly effectual. If this treatment is persevered in, the skin will soon heal, and in a week's time you can use vaseline to complete the curative process, and substitute starch powder for the Zinc preparation. In very tender cases I use *Vaseline* from the first, dusting the Oleate of Zinc over it, and I have found the lubricant is a protective against excoriation of the wound. As the infantine trouble we have just been describing does not usually commence until six weeks after birth, a careful Nurse can, by a little common-sense management, minimise the napkin wetting, and this should always be attended to.

(To be continued.)

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



THE PRINCESS LOUISE has just completed a charming bust of the Queen, which is to be forwarded to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago.

* * *

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has left Homburg and gone to Baden-Baden. She has already an immense amount of work mapped out, which she intends to undertake upon her return to England.

* * *

PRINCESS HENRY OF PRUSSIA has issued an appeal for the sufferers in Hamburg in the name of the "Vaterländischer Frauenverein," for Schleswig-Holstein, in which she points out that although it is the duty of everyone to prevent the spread of disease, nevertheless neighbourly compassion must not be forgotten in the care for one's own home. All the branches of the "Frauenverein" are earnestly entreated to collect funds, which will be sent to the Charity Association in Hamburg. Moreover, Princess Henry telegraphed to this association, expressing her deepest sympathy with the sufferers and asking how best she could help in the universal distress.

* * *

At the last meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the report of the Cholera Committee was read. The services of Dr. SHIRLEY MURPHY, the medical officer of the London County Council, were accepted. Thirty-two additional wheeled litters, in addition to fifty-two litters and twenty-six stretchers, were placed in readiness, permission having been given by the Metropolitan and City police authorities to the litters being wheeled upon the footways. Letters were addressed to the Corps of Commissionaires, the National Association for the Employment of Reserve Soldiers, and other societies, to provide men to man the litters, and satisfactory replies were received within a week.

* * *

A LIST of Hospitals and Infirmaries where beds were ready was published, and the Metropolitan Asylums Board had undertaken the transport of the whole of the cases in the metropolis. Sir VINCENT KENNETT BARRINGTON, Chairman of the Committee, urged that the Committee should not be disbanded, as it was the opinion of those best qualified to judge, that the epidemic would be likely to make its appearance early next year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)