

THE QUEEN'S TRIBUTE TO THE "ESPRIT DE CORPS" OF THE A.T.S.

The Queen recently inspected A.T.S. training centres and a junior officers' school in the South-Eastern Command. In a letter which Chief Controller Knox, Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, has received from Buckingham Palace, the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting expresses her Majesty's pleasure at seeing for herself the goodwill and skill with which women were applying themselves to so many unfamiliar tasks.

The letter continues: "The Queen was greatly impressed by the splendid *esprit de corps* which has been built up after only three years, and the obvious pride which your officers and non-commissioned officers take in the Service to which they belong."

After referring to the work of the A.T.S. as affording "a sound foundation for future usefulness," the letter says that the Queen will have many happy memories of her day with the A.T.S.

The Queen has sent to all ranks of the A.T.S. a message of appreciation of their service and her good wishes for their welfare.

IMPETIGO CONTAGIOSA.

By MISS L. GODDARD, S.R.N.

Impetigo contagiosa was first described by a London physician, Doctor Tilbury Fox, in the year 1869, and the term is still used to-day. The disease was even described by Hippocrates in 400 B.C., but then was called Ecthyma.

Impetigo usually attacks children, but it has been seen in adults. It is not a constitutional disease. It commences from an infection underneath the epidermis, usually superficial, and is caused by the streptococcus. This latter causes small red spots which appear either scattered or in groups on the face; they gradually spread and form blebs, each bleb being round and flat and the size of a pea. The fluid is at first clear, but gradually becomes pustular, and often it is infected again with staphylococci. The blisters burst and dry up rapidly, forming a thick crust-like scab of a bright yellow or brownish colour, appearing very much like candied peel. This scab is characteristic of impetigo. The purulent discharge which oozes from beneath these scabs is the source of infection.

If the scab is carefully removed, there will be no scar on the skin, as the lesions do not invade the true skin. If untreated, the disease may last for months, but quickly clears up with treatment.

Impetigo may be acute or chronic, and chronic scabies may be mistaken for impetigo, but usually the scab is the deciding factor.

Scratching is sure to take place, thus causing fresh lesions, occurring usually first on the face and head, then spreading to the body till the patient may be completely covered.

The head should be examined for lice, as impetigo is common where there is an untreated verminous head.

Complications are rare, but there may be swelling of the glands in the groin if the child has been kept in bed, and baldness may occur.

Treatment.—As the disease is contagious, every care must be taken that the child is kept separate from other children, and articles for meals, washing and clothing should be kept apart, and dressings burnt.

If the disease is due to a verminous head, this must be treated and the lice disposed of. The scabs should be softened with olive oil or a starch poultice. The latter is applied by mixing two tablespoonfuls of starch with one teaspoonful of boric powder in a little cold water, then boiling water is added and stirred in till it becomes thick, like a paste. This may then be spread on linen, and when cool, applied to the affected area.

If starch is difficult to obtain, olive oil may be used to soak off the scabs, which may then be picked off with a pair of forceps as they reappear. As olive oil also may be difficult to obtain, Acriflavine emulsion 1-1000 may be used as a dressing, or Acriflavine 1-1000 solution applied as a compress every four hours, or tannic acid, 2.5 per cent. solution applied over the area after the vesicles have been ruptured.

Ointment, such as mild mercurial ointment, well rubbed into the skin in and around the scab will sometimes help in its removal.

Artificial sunlight and Vaccine Staphylococci are useful in some cases, and the health of the patient must be attended to; plenty of fresh air, good food and tonics.

All clothing which has been in contact with the patient's body should be disinfected before being sent to the laundry.

There are various other forms of impetigo, such as impetigo figurato, impetigo sparsa, and impetigo syphilitica. As the latter name implies, this is an eruption of flat pustules occurring in syphilis.

Crustea lactea is another disease similar to impetigo contagiosa, but it is a compound of eczema and impetigo which causes the faces of children to be covered all over like a mask.

Impetigo variolosa is an eruption of simple pustules which occur between the dying pocks of smallpox.

Impetigo herpeticiformis is usually chronic, and occurs in pregnant women. The pustules may be seen in clusters or in ring formation, and there are usually constitutional disturbances.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We have to thank Dame Ellen Musson, Treasurer I.C.N., who, by request of the President, Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., has sent us a copy of the Spanish Translation of the Educational Programme of the International Council of Nurses, compiled by Miss Isabel M. Stewart.

The I.C.N. has contributed 500 Swiss francs towards the cost of the Translation, which has been carried out by the League of Red Cross Societies.

We gather that Miss Hentsch is visiting the South American countries, where the Spanish Translation will be of great help in arousing interest in the constructive policy of the I.C.N., founded in London in 1899.

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