

together kill more children under two years of age than all the other infectious diseases combined."

In the nursing and management of measles "there is no specific treatment for measles—that is, no drug or serum which acts on the measles virus, and the treatment of the case is in the nurse's hands!"

The chapters on chicken-pox and smallpox, of how to know the difference between these two diseases ("the disease most frequently confused with smallpox is, of course, chicken-pox") and their every aspect could scarcely be more clearly expressed.

A chapter is devoted to diseases of the central nervous system: poliomyelitis, encephalitis, meningitis.

"Infections of the central nervous system form a group of diseases which because of the diagnostic problems involved are best considered together. To have an intelligent interest in the diagnosis of these diseases," the author says, "the nurse must recall some elementary anatomical and physiological facts about the cerebrospinal fluid." These facts are very carefully set out.

Of acute poliomyelitis the author says, "This is one of the main crippling diseases of childhood. It attacks children of all ages from a few months upwards, but it is commonest under five-years old."

Epidemic encephalitis was originally known as encephalitis lethargica, or sleepy sickness, "but," the author explains, "by no means all cases show drowsiness."

Of meningitis the author says that meningococcal meningitis, cerebrospinal fever, is by far the commonest type of meningitis and is the only one to occur in epidemics in Britain.

The four unique drawings in colour illustrating the chapters on venereal diseases are most helpful in the study of this important subject so comprehensively presented in these pages; and, finally, I would say that the closing chapter on "The Social Aspects of Venereal Disease" is a fine contribution to the study of this work, which one feels

could not fail to be an inspiration to the nurse to acquire a truly humane understanding of her patient's suffering through this "age-old" and distressing disease.

Those who procure "Infectious Diseases with Chapters on Venereal Diseases" by A. B. Christie, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., are indeed to be congratulated on their choice of so outstanding a work which should be prized by the student as the textbook to bring her safely through her State Examination, and by the Registered Nurse as a valuable book for reference. A. S. B.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE NEGOTIATIONS.

The Negotiating Committee of the medical profession has held a meeting with Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health. The representations made to the Minister were based on the following resolution passed at the Special Representative Meeting of the Association on January 28th, and subsequently adopted by the Negotiating Committee:

"That the Association, having considered the final results of the plebiscite and the Minister's letter of January 6th to the President of the Royal Colleges and desiring to secure for the people the best possible health service, is willing that discussions be entered into with the Minister to that end, provided that such discussions are comprehensive in their scope, and that the possibility that they may lead to further legislation is not excluded; and that after the conclusion of these discussions, a second plebiscite be taken on the issue of entering the Service."

As an outcome of the meeting, six sub-committees of the Negotiating Committee, dealing with general practice, hospital and specialist services, public health, mental health services, eye services and superannuation respectively, will begin comprehensive discussions with the Ministry based on the resolution of the Representative Body.

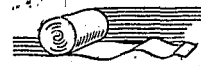
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