

Parasitic Cysts.

By L. Goddard S.R.N., S.C.M.

A PARASITIC OR HYDITID cyst is a hollow-like bladder, and is composed of three parts:—

The false cyst, which is a fibrous capsule and formed by the tissues around the part;

The ectocyst, which is an opaque membrane, thick, white and smooth;

The endocyst, which is composed of nucleated cells;

It is in the inner wall of the cyst that small white spots can be seen like vesicles which are brood capsules, where the head of the *Taenia echinococcus* is developed; the mature condition is never found in the human intestine, only in the dog, wolf or jackal.

Taenia echinococcus is a small worm, one-eighth to a quarter of an inch in length, and composed of four segments; the pointed head has four suckers and a double cirlet of thirty to forty hooks.

When ripe, the eggs are freed from the host's intestine. Man now plays the rôle of intermediate host; the spherical-shaped eggs find their way into water, or on vegetable foods, which are eaten uncooked, or the eggs may be carried direct to the mouth by the fingers, as the eggs cling to the hair of the dog and on their noses.

Once in the stomach of man, the embryo being liberated, penetrates through the intestinal walls and thus into the bloodstream and then carried to the liver, kidneys, lungs or brain, where it forms the hydrated cyst reaching a very large size and weighing ten to twenty pounds, or in some cases the parasite may die, when the cyst will disappear, having dried up.

Should it grow, new embryos develop with smaller cysts within them. If found in the liver they may cause very large tumours, which, should they burst, enter the peritoneal cavity; they may grow as large as a man's head before any unpleasantness is felt; until suppuration takes place there is no pain.

When this occurs, severe pain, profuse perspiration and rigor takes place, there is also emaciation and distress, digestive disturbances, dyspnoea and ascites, according to the position, pressure and size of the cyst.

Prevention: Dogs which are infected should be treated and their kennels thoroughly cleaned, all water boiled, and vegetables should not be eaten raw.

Treatment: X-rays may be of use in diagnosis, the cyst resembles that of an abscess, and incision and evacuation is usually performed, the patient soon recovering.

THE NURSING APPOINTMENTS SERVICE of the Ministry of Labour and National Service has been reorganised. One result is that there will be many more offices of the Ministry (135 compared with 33) where nurses and midwives and would-be nurses and midwives can receive both advice about these careers and any help they may want in obtaining posts, whether as trained nurses or midwives, students or pupils, or in other nursing work. This is part of a general reorganisation of the work, which will result in considerable overall economies.

We are gratified to learn that a trained nurse, known in this capacity as a Technical Nursing Officer, will be available to give advice and help to would-be nurses and midwives who, we are sure, will encourage suitable girls to help fill the ranks of this noble profession.

Nursing Echoes.

HER MAJESTY, QUEEN MARY, has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 159 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 122 in England, 1 in Wales, 32 in Scotland and 4 in Northern Ireland.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION COUNCIL invites applications for the post of Director to the Foundation.

This appointment is open to Registered Nurses of all countries affiliated to the International Council of Nurses. The Director will be responsible for organising and putting into effect a programme of post-basic nursing education and of research. Applicants must have had wide nursing experience and possess good professional qualifications, preferably to include some experience in research methods. They must be members in good standing of their National Nurses Association. Salary at the rate of £1,200 (twelve hundred pounds sterling) increasing by £50 per annum to £1,500, the appointment to be made at the appropriate stage in the scale in accordance with qualifications and experience. Participation in a superannuation scheme is required. The Headquarters of the Foundation, which is associated with the International Council of Nurses, is in London, England.

Further information regarding this appointment can be obtained on request, from the Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses. Applicants will be required to submit the names and addresses of three persons able and willing to testify as to their professional capabilities.

Applications, stating age and giving full details of general and professional education and post-basic nursing experience, should reach the Executive Secretary, The International Council of Nurses, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, England, not later than June 1st, 1950.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF REGULAR Q.A.R.A.N.C. AND Q.A.I.M.N.S. OFFICERS, past and present, will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C.2, on Monday, May 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets price 18s. on application to Secretary, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Club, Room 125, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

THE DANISH COUNCIL OF NURSES has decided to repeat the International Group Extension Course, which has been arranged for June 11th–24th, 1950. The second course will be held August 20th–September 2nd, 1950, and the programme deals with Tuberculosis Care and Treatment.

The cost of the Course is £15 and the cost of travel ranges from approximately £25 first class to £16 10s. third class.

Owing to the vast number of applications already received for the first Course, these will be considered first, and the National Council of Nurses will make an announcement in the Nursing Press if any further applications can be considered.

AT THE MEETING of the Central Midwives Board held on 6th April, 1950, Mr. Arnold Walker, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. was re-elected as Chairman and Mr. J. P. Hedley, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

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