

**The care of the sick : a course of practical lectures delivered at the
Working Women's College, 31, Red Lion Square / by Richard Barwell.**

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THE
CARE OF THE SICK.

A
COURSE OF PRACTICAL LECTURES

DELIVERED AT THE

Working Women's College,

31, RED LION SQUARE.

BY

RICHARD BARWELL, F.R.C.S.,

ASSISTANT SURGEON TO CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.

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PREFACE.

CLASSES have been opened at 31, Red Lion Square, for the instruction of Women, in the Scriptures, in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in Needlework, Geography, and Music. To these, and to the Ladies who are their teachers, my friend Mr. Barwell delivered these plain Lectures upon some of the subjects upon which they are most likely to make mistakes, and upon which they most need professional guidance. I do not avail myself of his kind request that I should connect my name with his by writing this Advertisement, because his book needs no recommendation, even if I were competent to give one; for there are numbers of persons in all parts of England who desire just such a manual, to put into the hands of their poorer

neighbours, as well as for their own use. But I am thankful for the personal honour which he has done me, and I am happy in the opportunity of claiming these Lectures as some of the first-fruits of an Institution which I trust may do much hereafter to protect humble people from quackery, and to bring the wisdom of the educated classes into contact with their practical needs and sufferings.

F. D. MAURICE.

December, 1856.

INTRODUCTION.



ONE of the most striking features of the present time is the desire which women feel, and make manifest, of joining in the work of the world. It is quite a modern symptom of society, and even in the last few generations had not begun to show itself, for we find nothing of the sort in the works of past authors. The heroines of Fielding, Richardson, Miss Burney, even of Walter Scott and of Miss Austen, do not appear to have had many ideas beyond needlework and love-making, nor much purpose on earth, but to paint deceptively and to win at cards. Now, on the contrary, Englishwomen are working and seeking work in every direction; there rises from among them a cry for useful employment, for a wider field of activity. The tenderly nurtured lady is now hardly content elegantly to dance, like a dust-mote, through the sunbeam of

her life, but strives to increase its brightness; she is desirous to make her time of value, and to be, without losing her influence and station, one of the "working women" of the world.

The care of the sick is an employment for which women are by nature especially fitted, yet medical men find it extremely difficult to get a patient properly nursed. Sickness is, like death, the common lot of all humanity, and surely the calling of a nurse should be high and respected; but how few nurses by vocation are there, who, in tone of mind or in habits, are such, that we should like to trust them with the care of a sick relative! On the other hand, the generality of women are so utterly ignorant of the duties of a sick-room, and of the mode in which they are to be performed, that their attempted aid is often a hindrance and a discomfort. It was with a view of imparting some knowledge of sick-room difficulties that these Lectures were given, a year ago, at the Working Women's College in Red Lion Square, to an attentive audience of the pupils of that Institution, and of ladies, who took an interest and an active part in their studies. The reception, which the discourses met with, and the desire, which many expressed, of seeing some simple printed work upon the subject, have induced me to publish them. They will have attained their object if they aid "working women,"

of whatever rank, to a better understanding of this portion of their work.

To all such, be they rich or poor, who would at any time undertake this sort of labour, I would say, that charity consists less in gifts than in actions. The other day I saw a gentleman throw a sixpence to a poor crippled old woman: it fell upon the pavement. Another gentleman picked it up and *put it into her hand*: the thanks she gave the second were more heartfelt, than those she accorded to the first. A gift may be given uncharitably; a single word may be so spoken as to bless both the speaker and the hearer. If, instead of sending out the broken victuals to Lazarus, the rich man had taken them himself, laid a pitying hand upon the poor one, and tried to comfort him in his disease, the fate of Dives had perhaps been different. Do not give your aid with a hard face, neither throw your assistance at the sufferer. Be tender of hand, patient of mind, humble of heart, bowing before Him who sends both health and disease. Let no vanity, no pride, no uncharitableness enter, with you, the sick-room; it is too holy a place for such feelings; therein, if you have chosen it as your place of offering, you will be tried; do not be found wanting. No sort of charity can be so blessed as patient attendance at the bed of sickness; no exercise so chastening as watching by

and soothing the pillow of pain ; no lesson can so deeply teach humility, as to stand, our efforts all in vain, in the very presence, in the very shadow of Death.

R. B.

22, *Old Burlington Street*,
January, 1857.

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THE CARE OF THE SICK.

LECTURE I.

OBJECT OF THE COURSE OF LECTURES.—DISEASE.—DIVISION INTO RAPID AND LINGERING.—GREATER PORTION OF LATTER DUE TO SCROFULA.—REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.—NUMBER DYING OF ONE FORM OF SCROFULOUS DISEASE IN A WEEK.—CAUSES OF SCROFULA.—IMPURE AIR.—VENTILATION.—MEANS OF CARRYING IT OUT.—NUISANCE REMOVAL ACT.—BOARD OF WORKS.—RESIDENCE IN THE MEWS OF LONDON.—SKIN CLEANLINESS, ITS VALUE.—USES OF THE PORES OF THE SKIN.—EVEN TEMPERATURE.—CLOTHING OF CHILDREN.—LIGHT, ITS EFFECTS.—DARK COURTS OF LONDON.—CASE OF SCROFULOUS FAMILY LIVING IN DIRT, DARKNESS, AND BAD AIR.

It must be understood that in this set of Lectures, called in the College Prospectus "Treatment of Sickness," I speak not of medical, but of nurse treatment. Were I asked how any of you should treat illness medicinally, I would answer, "Not at all:" avoid, by all means, dosing your friends and acquaintances, more particularly if they be children. Beware of patent medicines;

and never give your babies Daffy's Drops, Dalby's Elixir, or any other of those horrors, that add so much to the pains and difficulties of infant life. With these words I would dispose of the subject of all medicinal treatment: were I to talk till Doomsday, I could give you no safer or less injurious rules.

It is well to begin thus at once to disclaim all desire of making you physicians or surgeons; not only because it would be impossible to succeed, and hurtful to fail, but also, because *doctoring* is more popular among you than *nursing*. The former you must always do badly, and your vain attempts thereat will prevent your doing the latter well. Often have I seen, when a poor man has met with an accident, or is taken ill, that half his female neighbours will crowd into the room, each, without at all knowing what is the matter, recommending her favourite remedy. No doubt they begin with a praiseworthy desire to benefit the sufferer; but soon such wish is overpowered by zeal for their several nostrums. Then arguing commences, and the telling of dreadful stories; the room gets hotter and closer—the tongues louder and shriller,—and, in fact, the presence of such doctors becomes worse than the disease. Need there be further proof of the evil of amateur doctoring? Much might be given; but this is enough

to show you, that to become useful and comforting nurses, you must avoid all notion of being more.

Among the rich, nursing is tolerably easy. There is money to procure all that the sick man needs; servants to bring everything to the chamber-door; the chamber itself is lofty, airy, and only inhabited by the invalid; quiet and cleanliness may be easily commanded. Different is the case in the poor man's one room, where all the family are crowded together, where cooking must be done, where doors and windows fit badly, and where the noisy children of the other lodgers rattle up and down the stairs. But even these difficulties may in part be conquered. My object is to show you how this may be done, and against what particular evils you should chiefly direct your strength. It will be necessary at first, however, to point out some differences in the kinds of sickness you will frequently meet with. The chief broad division will be into Rapid and Lingerin Diseases, with the latter of which we will occupy ourselves to-day.

SCROFULA.

Nearly all these arise from a certain complaint called Scrofula, which manifests itself in different ways, producing Consumption, Bone-Diseases, Joint-Diseases, and others, as the special disposition of the sufferer may determine. This affection,

namely Scrofula, is very widely spread in this country: so much, that it would be below the truth to say, that at least three-quarters of the people have the seeds of that disease in their constitution.

I hold in my hand a paper, which is published weekly, called the "Registrar-General's Return." You probably do not know its history and value; but you do know, that, in every district in London, there is a person called the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. When a child is born, the birth, as you know, has to be registered at the office. When a person dies, a medical man gives a certificate of the cause of death, which must be left with the Registrar, before that dead person can be buried. Every Saturday night the Registrar makes up his tally of births and deaths, and sends them on Monday morning to the General Registrar Office at Somerset House. On the following Wednesday this Report is published; it shows the number of boys and of girls born in London during the past week; the number of persons dead in London, and in each district and part of Town; their occupation; their age, and the diseases of which they died, with much other information, that I will not trouble you with now.

I see by this Paper,—the return of last week,—that during those seven days ending January 19th, 1856, one hundred and seventy-seven persons died

of one particular form of scrofulous disease in London alone. From such a number,—viz. one person dying of this disorder every hour throughout the week,—one may form a rough calculation of the many thousands who are ill with it (for it is a slow disease), and of the many, many more, who, without being actually ill, are nevertheless so touched with the affection, that a slight cause will make it break forth.

It cannot have been the desire of the Creator, that so many of his creatures should thus be born of diseased parents, and with a blight upon them, which renders their life sickly, their death premature. We must not blindly attribute such error to our creation; but look for the fault within ourselves, or rather, to our carelessness concerning the laws of our life and health. We are not so reckless on any other matters. If we wish to keep a book clean, we do not put it in the dusthole; if we wish to keep a fire alight, we do not smother it with rubbish; yet I declare to you, that with our health, and with our lives, we do things as foolish every day—almost every hour. We are punished by such diseases as Scrofula; but we do not take warning; Typhus comes, still we are not warned; the more rapid stroke of Cholera may startle us now and then into a terrified repentance of our sins against ourselves. With all this, people do not

even yet understand, indeed it is difficult to persuade them, that their bodies require pure air to breathe, cleanly skins, and light, to continue them in health; and that the want of these will surely bring on diseases,—the first among them, Scrofula.

There is no doubt that the scrofulous taint passes from parents to children; but it is certain, that it may be very much overcome by good management, or may be goaded into actual disease by bad. Also, I feel convinced, it may be produced, even in persons born of healthy parents, by a long course of impure air, dirt, and darkness.

THE VALUE OF FRESH AIR.

You know that, by certain movements of the chest, air is constantly being pumped in and out of the lungs; and I dare say you know that the air breathed in is by no means the same as that breathed out. The pure air drawn into the lungs contains a certain gas, which is to be taken into the blood, and used in various operations of the body. The air breathed out is useless, because it contains no more of this gas; and, moreover, it is poisonous, because it has exchanged its useful gas for a hurtful one, and is mixed besides with certain hurtful matters thrown off from the body; therefore any person, going on breathing the same air over and over again, would soon be poisoned to death; and

any one breathing an air in which there is a certain amount of used gas would be more or less poisoned, according to the degree of mixture.

Have not you often felt, in the morning, that the room, you have been sleeping in, is close and uncomfortable? Have you not still more often found, on entering a room, where many people have been sleeping, that the air is heavy, scarcely to be breathed? This comes from the small amount of good gas which remains, and from the great amount of bad gas and of other poisonous matters which are in the air. It is true, perhaps, that people are not smothered by this closeness, because they cannot so perfectly close their windows and doors as to prevent some draughts of fresh air enlivening their rooms. When a poison is not strong enough to kill, it causes illness, which gets worse and worse, till it is exchanged for death. Thus persons, who constantly sleep in a close and poisonous atmosphere, may not on any one morning be found dead in their beds; but they will slowly get pale and weakly, lose their strength, the enjoyment of their lives, and die; their children, if they have produced any in this bad air, will begin life with the seeds of the complaint, the first-fruit of the poison, already in their systems,—a fruit which will ripen into a blight and strengthen to a plague.

Pure air is perhaps the most plentiful of God's

gifts; it is all around us, piled many miles over our heads, and beyond our reach. It is so contrived as to be always shifting and changing, purifying itself, when it has been used. But men act contrary to Nature's laws; they build houses without proper means of ventilation, they shut out, as closely as they can, all air from their rooms, crowd together in too small a space, breathe again and again the poisons from each other's body,—they fall ill, bequeath and inherit lingering disease.

If the healthy body throws off into the air such poisons, is it not likely, that the diseased should scatter around still more hurtful matter? In the sick room we nevertheless find a great dread of pure air, not only among the poor, but among the rich also. I know, that among the poorer people doors and windows are kept closed for the sake of warmth and to save fire; but you may assure them, that the cold will not hurt them so much, nor make them so uncomfortable, as the want of pure breathing. There are many diseases, which, if their poisons be not mixed with a certain amount of air, will spread like fire among haystacks; but which, when thus mixed, may be approached with safety. Be careful, then, both in health and in disease, to have sufficient pure air to keep your room healthy.

It is not always easy to ventilate a room or a

house without causing too much draught and cold. Some houses are so built, as to render it very difficult to air them properly; those with windows or doors only on one side are hardly to be efficiently ventilated, and are all of them most unhealthy;—the researches of the House-to-house Visitation, established during the Cholera-time of 1848, showed the extreme sickliness of these dwellings; and all experience of the years, since elapsed, has gone to prove it more distinctly. Never, therefore, live in a house which has not windows or doors on both sides, that you can, if desirable, cause a complete and thorough draught through the house.

When you have the means of causing such a thorough passage of air as above supposed, the next object is so to spread and break it, that you may have the full advantage of great ventilation, without the disagreeables and coldness of a chill, large draught. Air will flow through a room readily enough, if there be an opening on one side, low down in the room, at which it may come in, and a higher one on the other, at which it may go out. We want to get sufficient air to pass through, without allowing it to come in such a full stream as to give colds and rheumatism; and for this purpose it is better to have several little holes than one large one. A good plan is to take out one of the upper window-panes, and to put in its stead a

plate of zinc, with a certain number of holes in it, about the size of a quill, and at the lower part of the door to make an equal number of holes, about the same size. If the zinc plate, etc. cost more time or money than you can afford, you may take the advice which "An Old Friend" gives in a little pamphlet or tract he has published on the "Worth of Fresh Air." He advises his friend to "take a large gimlet, and bore a row of holes through the upper part of the window-frame, just above the glass; make them sloping a little downward, so that the rain may not run in." He then goes on to say, that with wooden pegs the amount of air may be regulated. This appears to me a very excellent piece of advice, and would, no doubt, answer extremely well.

HOUSE-CLEANLINESS.

Closely connected with this subject of ventilation is that of house-cleanliness. The air, bad as it is, which has been spoiled by much breathing, is probably less unwholesome, than that in which any vegetable or flesh have been putrefying. Such air, however, we frequently find in the rooms of careless or dirty housewives, who, after a time, get used to the smells and discomforts of an ill-kept room. I say, however, that these matters are not merely uncomfortable, but most unhealthy; that

nothing which is likely to putrefy, no refuse food, nothing which is of itself dirty, should be kept in a living-room. You know all this; and I am of course aware, that every decent woman wishes to have neatness and tidiness about her; but it may be, that you desire to convince some disorderly person of the value of this sort of cleanliness. Then you may tell her, that diseases are very often caused by breathing air, which is loaded with the gases from a putrefying substance, or which is rendered unclean by the fumes from dirty water, from foul clothes, or from other impurity. You must also show her, that these evils are not remedied by pushing the dirty matter, whatever it be, under the bed, or hiding it under a bit of carpet or behind a table,—the bad gases will come from it just as freely. You may also say, that, if even a disease has not actually been caused in their case, such evils will slowly, but surely, undermine the health.

Perhaps the room, which some one of you may inhabit, is one of those little pictures of neatness, that do one's heart good to look at; nevertheless the staircase may be black and tainted; it may be a well-staircase, at the bottom of which is a closet, whose foul smell floats up the stairs into your very chamber itself. What, under such circumstances, becomes of that ventilation, with whose value I have, to the extent of my power, tried to impress

you? You must either close your chamber-door, stopping up every crack and cranny, to keep out the foul air, and so allow your room to get close and heavy; or you must allow to enter an air filled with impure and unwholesome vapours. In either way the place is not healthy,—not fit for a human being to live in, and not worth the money, that may be paid for it. In such cases, you know, the landlord is bound to correct the nuisance; and if persuasion does not lead him to do so, the “Inspector of Nuisances” for the special district must be informed of the circumstance. His address is to be found by application to the beadle of the parish or district church, at the vestry-room or office.

This is a simple case; but the fact is, that many of the persons who rent rooms in such houses owe their landlord one or two weeks’ rent: their furniture is more or less at his mercy, and they dare not complain. Just at the present time the mode of managing these matters in London is undergoing alteration, and it is to be hoped that, by the new system, a better means of watching and enforcing the removal of nuisances will be carried out, and that the tenant will be spared the necessity of complaint.

The external senses are given to man, not merely that he may by their aid seek what is pleasant and serviceable, but also that he may avoid what is

hurtful. The sense of smell is especially useful for this purpose, for nearly everything that smells badly is injurious. Thus the horrible stench, that issues from flooded cellars or foul closets, the close smell of a room over-crowded and ill-ventilated, and very many other such odours, are all signs of unhealthy atmosphere. The bad smell poured from ill-stopped drains into a close court or narrow alley, where only a small portion of fresh air can mingle with it, is extremely hurtful. Avoid therefore hiring rooms in such places; choose as airy a street as you can, or, if necessarily a court, one that has an opening at both ends, so as to allow as free a circulation of air as possible.

Let me also say a word or two about the Mews of London, where, in the Grosvenor and Belgrave Square district, a great many working-men's families live. The dwelling-rooms in these places are mostly on the first floor, the basement being occupied with carriage, harness-houses, and stables. Now choose those rooms that are over the coach-house, for they are generally sweet; but those that are over the stables, smell strongly of horses, and are not healthy. Some people will tell you, that the smell of horses is wholesome. I have no prejudice against horses, but both reason and experience lead us to the same conclusion, viz. that the atmosphere of any animal refuse is injurious.

A clergyman of the parish, in which, some four years ago, I lived, asked me to see a woman who was ill. I have not altogether lost sight of the family since, for sometimes one, sometimes another, is ailing. The house these people lived in had a double set of rooms,—those to the right of the staircase over the coach-house, those to the left over stables. Some two or three years ago they moved from the right to the left side of the house. Since this time illness has been much more frequent among them, and their ailments of a less tractable kind.

It is well perhaps to tell you, that the bad effects of impure air and closeness is first observable in children. Those tender buds soon begin to droop, to grow pale and languid, to lose their appetite and their mirth. Even among people rich enough to live where they like, we see the ill effects of a change from a dry country air to the fogginess of a low-lying, fashionable district. This change is first and most marked in the children of the family, who often have to be sent away from town before the elder persons begin to complain.

BODILY CLEANLINESS.

I am afraid that, until of late, it has been much our habit to wash with care those parts of our bodies that, being uncovered, are visible to our neigh-

bours, and to neglect those that are hid from view. This ought not to be. It is washing the outside of the vessel while the inside is left unclean ; it is hypocrisy in soap and water. The skin is intended, like the lung, to carry away from the blood useless and hurtful matter ; but instead of being blown off in a draught of air, as is the case in the lungs, this poison oozes forth from many little channels, and a good deal of it must stay on the skin until it is washed away. Now the effect of not washing is, first, that this poisonous matter hangs to the body, and then, that some of it even passes back into the blood. The channels through which this matter should come get clogged ; there is no longer a passage ; and the material must be partially got rid of in some other way,—with pain, discomfort, or disease. What would you say of a man with a fine house, pure, healthy, and beautiful, who stopped its drains and shut out the air, and lived in darkness and in dirt ? You could not indeed think worse of him, than of the man, who lives in a full room with the window shut, and who does not really and honestly wash himself.

The skin carries away an enormous amount of material in the twenty-four hours,—sometimes more, sometimes less, according to the warmth of the weather or clothing. It is important to health that this drainage from the blood should be active,

nor stopped by any sudden chill, particularly with children. It is in great measure for this purpose that we wear clothes; that we increase their thickness in winter; and so on. But how is it that children, in whom this is especially important, are allowed to run about barelegged and bare-chested, even in cold weather? It is certain, that a child has less power of resisting cold, than a grown-up person has; therefore their skins should be more carefully guarded from sudden chills; and yet, they are suffered to run about with head, chest, arms, and legs bare; when, if a grown-up person were to venture out in such a condition, he would surely take cold, in spite of his greater powers of resistance. Mothers, who have a funny little pride in the mottled legs of their offspring, declare that their babies do not catch cold; at the very time, when I have seen their noses run, lips sore, etc. etc. The poor things cannot complain, but they suffer very often. Yet, after all, the actual taking a cold is of less importance than the slower working of such a system; for, as I have said, such chill to the skin checks the passing away of the material which ought to come from it, and throws the work chiefly on the lung. It also drives the blood inward to the same part, and will, in a child of scrofulous parentage, be very apt to lay the foundation of a disease, which might, by care, have been kept

away. Many a child has fallen a victim to his legs, or rather to his parents' pride in them.

VALUE OF LIGHT.

A scarcely explainable, but great influence is exercised upon our health by light. I say, I cannot explain it, but I can give you examples, where its influence in other matters is unmistakable. There is a poison so intense, that a couple of drops will kill a man like a stroke of lightning. If you put this liquid into a bottle, well stoppered, and kept in the dark, it will preserve all its power for years; if it be kept in the same bottle, but in a strong light, it will in a few days have become very much weaker, and it gradually changes altogether. The beautiful effects of photography, with which you are doubtless acquainted, are all produced by the influence of light on a chemical substance called the iodide of silver. If you take a growing plant, put it into a dark room, and nurse it there for some days, you will find, when you take it out, that it will have become white. The human body is more delicate, than the poison, the silver, or the plant; and it is certain, that many chemical and electric changes, necessary for its health, can only go on under the influence of light.

In London, there are many narrow courts and

alleys, where the high houses, standing close together, shut out every draught of air and every ray of sunshine: the whole place seems in constant twilight; the very stale, dank mosses on the out-house roofs seem blighted with darkness. In these places the men and lads, who go to their employment in less confined spots, more or less keep their colour; the women and the children, who remain much at home, are faded and colourless, like the plants kept in the dark.

I have wandered away, you see, from the subject of nursing people with lingering sicknesses, to the effect on health of air, cleanliness, and light. You might indeed tax me with talking under false pretences; but before you altogether condemn me, be sure that I am wrong.

I promised, some few pages back, to speak to you of the evils, you would have chiefly to fight against in the management of lingering illness. The want of air, cleanliness, and light, are the principal evils which, in a poor man's house, you must combat. They are apt, as we have seen, to cause diseases; therefore to continue them, if they be once produced. In the course of my hospital duties, I visited, during last summer, a case of scrofulous Bone-Disease in a child. The people were by no means among the poorest sort of patients, but were of very dirty habits. The room was so close, that

I scarcely could breathe ; the blind was always half or quite pulled down ; though, had it been raised, but very little sorry light could have come through so dirty a window. Everything in the room was filthy and disorderly ; the man working in old slippers, with uncombed head ; the woman with unfastened gown, and stockings down at heel. There were several children besides the one I was attending, but they all had crooked or actually diseased bones, or other strong marks of scrofula.

The patient herself was lying in this close air, with hot dry skin and tongue, heavy aching eyes, and flushed face ; all showed that no medicine, no blister, would do good without fresh air. Her bed was just under the window, and apparently could not be moved, because every corner had its own particular heap of disorder. If the window were opened, while the bed remained there, the poor child would catch cold. In fact, difficulty after difficulty was raised, to show the impossibility and imprudence of admitting any fresh air. These were gradually overcome, the bed moved, and the window opened. Slowly the patient mended ; and at last her little chair was got into the court, the fever disappeared, and she was soon able to move about again. I gave some medicines during this time ; they were the same she had been taking, without benefit, for a month or more, while still well enough to attend

at the Hospital; and I therefore cannot think that the physic had much to do with the cure.

Thus, then, I say, that preservation of health is so closely allied to the subject of nursing in lingering disease, that I have done no wrong in passing from one subject to the other. A medical man of experience and talent does not prescribe this or that form of medicine, merely because a patient has a white or brown tongue, a quick or slow pulse; he endeavours to trace the disease to its origin, and against this, when he has found it, he fights. Such causes of illness, as I have mentioned to you, ought to be evident to every one,—to the nurse as to the doctor, to the patient as to the nurse. They are more easily combated and overcome by the inhabitants, each one in his own house, than by the medical attendants or parish-officers. But where any of you undertake, from kindness of heart, to do the part of a nurse among your brethren, remember, that you will always do good, in lingering diseases, by enforcing *ventilation, cleanliness, and light.*

LECTURE II.

SMALL AILMENTS AND ACCIDENTS.—IN GREATER ONES NECESSITY OF MEDICAL ADVICE.—BURNS AND SCALDS.—THEIR IMPORTANCE IS ACCORDING TO THEIR DEPTH AND SIZE.—MODE IN WHICH THEY MAY BE FATAL.—SIGNS OF APPROACH OF FATAL CONDITION.—THREE DEGREES OF BURN.—DISTINCTION.—TREATMENT.—CONTRACTION OF SCARS AND DEFORMITIES AFTER BURN.—WOUNDS, CUT AND BRUISED.—BLEEDING.—DRESSING CUTS WITH STRAPPING.—BRUISED WOUNDS.—FOUL WOUNDS; THEIR DANGER AND TREATMENT.—INFLAMMATION FORMING MATTER.

THIS Lecture will be devoted chiefly to trifles,—to the smaller illnesses or accidents of life. Such are often hardly bad enough to make us fetch a doctor, yet are sufficient to cause considerable pain, which may in great measure be relieved by skilful management. I think, that the whole number of these little ailments, from which all people suffer, make up altogether a greater mass of uneasiness, than do the larger illnesses of humanity. It will be therefore advantageous to spend a little time in examining the methods of managing these maladies.

But if I speak to you of how to treat a slight wrench, you will not therefore try to cure a bad

sprain; if I tell you what to do with a little cut, you will not undertake the management of a great gash. In fact, this is one of those cases, in which a little knowledge is not a dangerous thing, while you bear in mind that it is a little, very little indeed. When however you begin to imagine your mouse an elephant, and to charge conceitedly therewith among things much beyond your power, you may ultimately find a disfigurement, the loss of a limb, or of a life, sit heavily upon your conscience. I shall, therefore, in speaking to you of ailments and accidents (chiefly of the latter), tell you when, under ordinary circumstances, you may trust to Nature and yourself; also when, under no circumstances, you ought to do so; but should call in a properly educated medical man. Even, if the case be beyond his or all human help, he will relieve you, as relation or friend, from the dreadful thought of having tampered with the sacred life of one you should carefully have guarded.

BURNS AND SCALDS.

Such cases are burns and scalds. Children will, when the mother is cutting the bread and butter for tea, or is otherwise busy, pull down the kettle, or put their hands into the teapot, or smooth little sister's face with the flat-iron, or do something of a sort not to be imagined

by any one, unversed in infant nature. Well, it does not much matter, whether the skin be burnt with hot water or with a hot iron; the important point is the size and depth of the injury. When much skin has been destroyed, the accident impresses very deeply the whole frame. I have seen burnt people, chiefly children, fall into a heavy, drowsy state, from which it is difficult to rouse them, and which gradually goes through insensibility to death. This condition approaches slowly and unmarkedly, giving no very visible sign; except a heaviness and drowsiness, coming on after great pain and restlessness. The quiet therefore is regarded by the untaught nurse, be she mother or friend, as a great blessing; but in an hour or so the sufferer is found insensible, breathing heavily and slowly, and in a few hours more is dead. Another way, in which burns affect the body, produces an almost contrary state. The injured person appears in comparatively little pain at first, but becomes after a time restless, with hot, dry skin, rapid pulse and breathing; then follow spasms or convulsions, soon, perhaps, death. Neither of these states, when once fully established, is easily to be conquered; therefore, if the burn be at all large or deep, do not undertake it yourself; let a surgeon see it; he will do his best; and, at all events, you need not reproach yourself with having ignorantly

undertaken what was very far above your skill to manage.

Now, whether the surface injured be large or small, the skin may be burnt in different degrees.

Firstly, so as only to redden it for some time.

Secondly, so as to cause bladders or blisters.

Thirdly, so as to strip the scarf-skin completely off, and to char, more or less, the true skin.

In the first case, our object is to keep on the scarf-skin, and prevent it forming into blisters. Some people use cold for this purpose; but I am sure, that it is a great mistake to do so, and that a continued application of heat is the true mode of treatment. If the burn be on a part that can be put into a basin, it should be laid in hot water for about half an hour or more, and when removed may be covered with some unsalted grease, and wrapped in cotton-wool for five or six hours at least, to keep up the warmth. If the burn be on the breast, back, or any part which cannot thus be put into hot water, another arrangement must be made. Salt, heated tolerably hot and put into a linen bag, may be laid on the part, previously greased; or several folds of soft rag may be wrung out of hot water, placed on the burn, and over them a piece of oiled-silk, to keep in the moisture. After either plan, cotton-wool may be bound on to preserve warmth.

If the scarf-skin get into bladders or blisters, a different sort of treatment is necessary. But, first, it may be as well to let me explain what I mean by true skin and scarf-skin. The true skin is a very delicate material, containing a large number of blood-vessels and nerves, and therefore is highly sensitive. When a portion of this web is destroyed, it is never re-made as before, but instead a material called the scar is produced, which is both tougher and less yielding than true skin. Lying over this delicate structure, and protecting it from the air, is the scarf-skin, containing neither vessels nor nerves, and therefore without any sensation. It is in general very thin; but in those parts of the body, which are much subjected to pressure or to friction, it becomes thick, hard, and horny, as is the case in the palm of the hand and sole of the foot. It may be re-made in any quantities, unless so much be destroyed, that the actual growth weaken the bodily powers. A blister is a puffing out of the scarf-skin by fluid, between it and the true skin.

When such a blister is formed suddenly, as by a burn or scald, it does not, I believe, matter whether or no the bladder be pricked and the fluid let out; but it is most important that air should be kept from the part. I think the pain is, in general, less if the blister be emptied; but do not strip the scarf-skin from the surface. The fluid should

simply be allowed to escape through a small opening or slit in that membrane, which will then lie closely upon the true skin again, aiding to guard it from the air. There are various applications used for this protective purpose. Cotton-wool is one of these; but although I recommended it in the first degree of burn, where the skin is reddened but not blistered, I cannot say that I should advise its use in the cases we are now considering. The fluid which, after a blister is emptied, will still continue to flow from the part, wets the wool; its soaked threads find their way and stick to the injured surface, keeping up a great amount of irritation. When, in consequence of the pain complained of, or of a bad smell in the part, it is thought desirable to take off the cotton-wool, it will be found sticking to the edges of the wound, and its removal will cause much pain. Water penetrates the wool with such difficulty, that it can hardly be soaked off.

Pure, fine flour, sprinkled on rather thickly but slowly, and covered with a piece of soft rag, is one of the best possible applications. The fluid from the burn makes it into a paste, which sticks to the surface without irritating it, which dries and effectually keeps away the air. This application had better not be removed at all; and when, after some time, it falls off of itself, the place will be found to

have healed underneath. If, however, on account of pain or of an ill smell, it be thought advisable to remove this dressing, the patient need only to put the part into warm water; or if, from its position, this be impossible, to wet the paste well, and it will come off without either pain or difficulty.

Another preparation often used is an equal mixture of linseed-oil and lime-water; it is rather a dirty material, and requires good management to prevent the linen or clothes becoming soiled with the grease. Lint, hardly larger than the burn, should be dipped in the lotion and laid smoothly over the place, then covered with oiled-silk, and the whole kept on with a bandage. If the discharge is slight, this piece of lint need not be removed for days, but the oiled-silk may be just lifted off and a little more of the lotion dropped on. In ordinary cases, and in hands not much accustomed to the management of wounds, I would recommend the flour treatment.

That sort of burn, in which the scarf-skin is shrivelled away or stripped clean off, is, as already stated, the most dangerous; you must not therefore undertake such a case, unless the place be a mere speck. Either application (linseed-oil and lime-water, or flour) may be used; but when the discharge becomes yellow and thick, evidently what is called "matter," a bread poultice should

be applied. The local management is as easy in these cases as in slighter ones ; but constitutional remedies are generally necessary, and they require the watching of a practised eye.

I told you, a short time ago, that true skin was never re-made ; and it is for this reason, that burns, which destroy that part, often leave such terrible scars. The wound in healing, as it cannot make true skin, must borrow that structure from all the neighbouring parts. A large burn on the breast will gather skin from the neck, from the edge of the armpit and arm itself, till it draws down the chin, pulls in the arms, and ties them by red, fleshy bands to the chest, making the sufferer a miserable cripple and a dreadful object to behold. Sometimes these misfortunes can be relieved by a painful, tedious, and somewhat uncertain operation. I mention the peculiarities of the effects of a burn and of its scar, that you may not be led into error about the slow action of the healing process.

I had under my care, some time ago, a child, about seven years old, who had been severely burnt on the front of each arm, about the bend of the elbow. When the first irritation had gone off, so that the child was in no danger, it seemed to me advisable to forestal that tendency to contract, which I have just mentioned to you, by keeping the arms stretched on a couple of straight splints.

This certainly retarded the healing process very considerably, and caused, no doubt, some little pain; but the wound was progressing very favourably, when the parents insisted on taking the child away, promising to keep on the splints. In about a fortnight I received a highly abusive letter (which I kept for some time as a remarkable composition), in which I was taunted with intentional cruelty, and was told, that, the splints having been discontinued, the wound had healed. I am sorry to add that, when last I saw that child, the scars had drawn up each elbow, so as to tie the hands to the shoulders. Let this warn you not to hasten the healing of such wounds; present pain is better than the constant misery such a deformity must produce, as is proved by the readiness, with which such sufferers go through any painful operation for the sake of being even partially relieved.

WOUNDS.

Let us now pass on to wounds; such, namely, as may be made with instruments, more or less sharp. These injuries generally cause some amount of bleeding; and, of course, if this is sufficient to appear at all alarming, you will call in surgical assistance; also you will not fail to do so when the wound goes so deep beneath the skin, that important parts may be injured. Let me also warn you

against neglecting to call in a surgeon, when any part near the eye is wounded, when the lip is deeply cut, almost divided, or when the hairy scalp is hurt; in the former two cases certain ugly deformities are apt to occur; in the latter, erysipelas is a danger to be guarded against.

Wounds may be divided into simple cuts, made with a sharp knife, and into wounds, jagged and bruised, from having been inflicted with a blunt instrument. Again, both of these may be produced by a clean weapon or by a foul one. Let us first consider the simple case, that, namely, of a cut-wound, made by a sharp and clean knife. Such injuries are followed by a flow of blood. When this is sufficient to be alarming, a surgeon should be sent for; but the mere oozing, which comes from a slight cut, may in general be stopped by soaking it in cold water, and then the wound may be closed and dressed with plaister.

Now there are several kinds of plaister, which may be used for this purpose. The cheaper sorts are called Soap or Dressing Plaister, and Sticking, or Strapping Plaister. The former of these is less irritating, but sticks less firmly than the latter: both of them are made to adhere by heat. Court Plaister is made of a gummy material spread on black waterproof silk. A newer invention than any of these is the Isinglass Plaister, made of gelatine:

and gum spread upon muslin ; it is less expensive than court plaister, and has the additional advantage of being transparent. Both these latter sorts must be made to adhere by damping slightly their gummy surface with warm water. Except in this slight difference, of warming some and moistening other sorts of plaister, their application is precisely similar, and a slip or slips must be cut off, of the size and quantity required. For such wounds as you should undertake to dress, the breadth of the strip should be about an eighth, or, what is the same, half a quarter of an inch, and the length may vary from an inch to an inch and a half. And now, having cut, and either moistened or warmed, as the case may be, the several slips, you may proceed to strap the wound. The object of this process is gently to press the edges of the wound together with the left hand, and at the same time so to apply strips of plaister across the cut, that, when the pressure of the hand is removed, the edges still remain in contact, and properly adapted to each other. To do this, the finger and thumb of the left hand must be of course on opposite sides of the wound ; under the thumb the end of the strip of plaister may be placed, and when the edges are properly adapted, the plaister may be laid smoothly and rather tightly across the cut, keeping, by its adhesion, the edges in their

proper situation. The distance on either side of the wound, to which the plaister should extend, must vary according to its depth and situation; but small ones, such as you ought to treat, will not require more than half or three-quarters of an inch. If the cut be long enough to render necessary the use of several strips of plaister, each should just overlap the edge of the one before applied, so as completely to cover the wound and to keep it from the air.

Whatever the sort of plaister, of which it is composed, the dressing, as above described, may remain on the wound for several days, unless there be pain and throbbing, or unless the part begin to have an offensive smell, or, again, unless the plaisters change in appearance, as follows.—Those described as soap and dressing plaisters, may become of a peculiar brown colour; the isinglass plaister will, by its transparency, allow the wound to be seen discharging and gaping a little. All these symptoms and appearances must equally be taken as signs, that the wound, instead of healing at once, “by the first intention” as surgeons call it, is discharging, and that the matter must have a free passage out.

In removing the plaister, whether or no there be the above signs of discharge, do not simply take hold of one end and draw it from the skin; for thus

you will separate the edges of the cut, and undo what may have been done towards healing. You should detach the plaister from the skin at both ends towards the wound ; and when it only remains on by a narrow piece at each edge of the cut, take hold of the side of the strip, and draw it off along, and in the direction of, the wound. By this means you run no risk of injuring the still unfinished work of Nature. If the wound is closing, or already just closed, you may strap it up again in the same way. If any part of it is not united to the opposite side, but is discharging, that part ought not to be covered again with plaister, but should be left open, only protected from the air by a little piece of lint. If, on the contrary, no part be properly united, but the whole wound be discharging, more particularly if it have red edges, the plaister should not be reapplied ; the part should, on the contrary, be well bathed in hot water, and then a bread-poultice applied. After some time, when the redness at the edges and around the wound has quite disappeared, it may be wrapped in wet lint, and the whole covered with oiled-silk to keep in the moisture.

Those wounds, which are made with a blunt instrument, and are jagged and bruised, do not in general bleed ; neither do they heal at once, or “ by the first intention.” The flesh, which is injured

by the rude blow of a blunt implement, and cut at the same time, is not in a condition to unite by this process, but must undergo another, of which one essential part is a certain amount of discharge. The treatment to be adopted in such cases is, then, to encourage this discharge, which is best done by bathing the part with warm water, and by the use of a bread or linseed-meal poultice.

If the instrument, sharp or blunt, with which the injury was done, be foul, the part should be well soaked with hot water, and sponged, so as to clean the actual cut surface as much as possible. Any dirt in a wound is apt to do mischief; but more particularly so, if it be composed of either animal or vegetable matter. Thus, a butcher's or skin-dresser's knife, leaves behind dangerous wounds; for the substance sticking to those blades will act as a poison in the flesh. A part thus injured, I say, should be soaked in hot water, not merely to wash its surface, but also to encourage some amount of bleeding, which will aid in carrying away any hurtful matters.

To prevent wounds, particularly old ones, getting foul, and poisoning themselves, it is necessary to keep them very clean. I do not mean that it is desirable to wash the surface of the wound itself,—for the discharge is intended as a mild, protecting fluid, which is not to be sponged away; but the

skin round these places is apt to get dirty, partly from the matter flowing upon it and drying there; partly from the dressings used. Thus it is very necessary to cleanse frequently the skin around old wounds, otherwise they will spread, and are apt to fall into "gangrene." That hospital gangrene, and those spreading foul wounds, which we read of in the annals of army sicknesses, when in each regiment the number of sick and wounded exceeded its medical strength,—arose in great measure from the dirt, accumulated in old cases, and which no one had the time to wash away.

Very often, if a wound be poisoned, or if a person be a little out of health, and when there is a peculiar depressing state of the atmosphere, a cut may, even after healing, take on a fresh inflammation, which will spread and form matter beneath the surface. If the wound be on the hand, red lines will run from the inflamed spot up the arm; lumps will even form on the inside of the elbow and in the armpit. I have observed that the tendency to this peculiar inflammation is greater at certain times than at others. When Cholera was with us, or chiefly just before and just after its outbreak, there was a great deal of this tendency: just now (February, 1856), while there is a large amount of fever, it is also very prevalent. I can only tell you, that in these cases the sooner you

seek surgical aid the better; they do not get well of themselves; in fact, they must nearly always be cut to let out the matter. Do not refuse to allow this to be done, as is too much the habit with patients at the hospital, and elsewhere, who have therefore to go through an additional amount of suffering, and are obliged at last to submit. As long as the matter is confined in the part, the inflammation only gets worse; it spreads, and may destroy some of the tendons or leaders, and so injure the use of the limb. Moreover, confined matter produces great throbbing and pain, which is relieved by opening the part; so that those, who have been thus afflicted always say, that they have slept better after such an operation, than since the disease began. Having once myself suffered severely from this affection, I can speak strongly to the truth of their statement. Let me, in a few words, warn you against a practice I find rather common among the class of people from which hospital patients come, namely, the rubbing of these swellings with tar, resin, or other sticky substance. One object in our treatment is to keep the pores of the skin well open,—an object which such appliances as these by no means effect.

LECTURE III.

MILK ABSCESS.—CAUTION AGAINST TOO LONG SUCKLING.—THE PART TO BE LEFT AT REST.—MODE OF SUPPORTING IT.—SORE NIPPLES.—CAUSES.—TREATMENT.—CLEANLINESS.—SICKNESS IN INFANTS.—CAUTION AGAINST DOSING THEM.—INFLAMED EYES, TO BE SHADED FROM LIGHT WITHOUT HEATING THE HEAD. — CONVULSIONS.—EPILEPSY.—HYSTERICIS.—DISTINCTION OF SYMPTOMS.—THEIR FUTURE CONTRASTED.—FAINTING.—EFFECT OF POSITION ON OTHER CASES, AS BURST VEINS OF LEG, IN CHOKING, BLEEDING AT NOSE.

At the end of the last Lecture some mention was made of a certain inflammation, which occasionally arises about a wound, and causes a formation of matter. It was said, that this affection was particularly frequent in certain unhealthy states of the atmosphere, called depressing. I must now add a little to that statement, and go on to say, that if by any means a person has been weakened, and if, at the same time, a part be called on to act more strongly than usual, there is apt to arise in that part an inflammation, which leads quickly, very quickly, to the formation of matter. Thus you are doubtless aware that women, while suckling, are subject to a disease in the breast, which, from the

time of its coming on, is commonly called "Milk Abscess."

This malady may arise, quite early in suckling, from weakness, either constitutional or brought on by the confinement; I must tell you however that it is frequently caused by the extravagant length of time during which some, in fact most, poor women nurse their children. They do this from a mistaken idea that they are not likely to fall in the family-way while suckling. From eight to ten months is quite long enough to keep a child at the breast; longer than a year is nearly always injurious both to the mother and infant. Mothers however frequently suckle children of eighteen months; I have even seen a woman nursing a strong boy two years and a half old; and this long drain on the body weakens very much. Milk-abscess, whether produced by this cause, or whether it comes on early, may, I am sure, be very often cut short; more frequently rendered much milder, by proper management, which simply consists in giving the part as much rest as possible.

When a mother, who is nursing, feels a heavy aching pain in one of her breasts, and even before any outward redness is visible, she should at once leave off suckling from that one. She should not knead it nor squeeze it; but leave it perfectly at rest, for then the milk will not gather in it so

much as if she excite its flow by pressure. You know that a child, when the supply of milk does not meet his desires, raises his little fist and pom-mels the breast with it; the calf butts at the cow's udder when the milk is scanty. Thus that squeezing and handling of the breast, which people call emptying it, will only excite it to fill rapidly again, causing much blood to rush into the part. The breast however, filled with milk, is heavy, and, hanging by its own weight, produces into itself a considerable flow and fulness of blood; and it should therefore be supported, just as an inflamed hand is kept in a sling. A soft handkerchief should be placed under the painful breast, and one end be passed under the arm of the same side to the back of the neck; the other end should go over the chest, and both be tied together behind. The sling thus made must of course be kept of such a length as to raise the breast slightly against the chest, without causing disagreeable pressure. Next the part should be placed a fold or two of soft linen or of lint, and outside this a piece of oiled-silk, to keep the clothes dry.

It is beneficial to bathe the breast, two or three times a day, with warm water, or with poppy fomentation; but it is on the means of giving the part rest, that I wish to lay particular stress. It may seem to you a trifle, but experience has shown

me, that, if this plan be resorted to sufficiently early, abscesses may often be prevented. Even, when from a blow or other cause, inflammation of an empty breast comes on, the part should be supported, and indeed with rather more pressure, than is advisable in the other case.

I said, that milk-abscess generally arose from weakness; and so I must warn you against taking large doses of salts, or other purgative and weakening medicine. In my practice, especially among the poor at the hospital, I find it more usually necessary to use strengthening medicines, such as steel and quinine; and, if possible, also a more nourishing diet. During last winter I attended one of these cases. The patient, imagining that "the inflammation had to be cleared out of the blood," had greatly weakened herself by purges, and was in a somewhat dangerous condition. Great care was at first necessary; but as soon as it was safe for her to take quinine and steel, also wine and porter, the abscess began to heal. I do not intend, by relating this case, to recommend you always to use such diet, for sometimes it would be highly unsuitable; but I wish very much to warn you against the opposite fault.

SORE NIPPLE.

A complaint, which is common to mothers, and

which is very troublesome, indeed painful, is called the "sore nipple." All sorts of contrivances with wood, glass, India-rubber, etc., have been invented, to cover the part while the child is at the breast; but I do not know of any, that are of much use. A substance of any sort, between the breast of the mother and the infant, is a hindrance to the flow of milk, and, at all events, a trouble to the child, who, if weak and fretful, will refuse altogether; if strong and violent, will draw with the more force. This violence will not only cause as much pain, but also do as much hurt, as though the child's mouth were actually allowed to touch the nipple.

This painful affection is often caused by a sore condition of the infant's tongue, and may not unfrequently be prevented by care and cleanliness on the mother's part. Thus, as soon as the child's mouth is known to be sore, or the nipple gets the least irritated, the mother should always, after nursing, sponge her breast well with hot water, to wash away the moisture of the child's mouth. Afterwards may be applied, on a piece of soft rag, or camel-hair brush, some honey and borax, or, still better, some honey just whitened by stirring a little carbonate of soda into it (a teaspoonful of soda to half a wineglassful of honey). A cleaner application perhaps, though not generally so beneficial, is the Glycerine lotion, which can be got at any

chemist's. In the meantime it is also essential to attend to the child's health ; for the bad state of its mouth, which generally produces sore nipples, is caused by a wrong condition of the stomach. It is not my intention to give you any recommendations or receipts for medicines, and especially none for children, whose health is easily and frequently injured by dosing ; but I do not think any harm can result from giving a sore-mouthed infant, just before suckling it, a piece of honey and borax about the size of a pea. When the nipple is deeply cracked,—which, with all care, does occasionally, though rarely, happen,—a little fine flour sprinkled well into the places will be a great comfort, and may often prevent them opening still further, particularly if a little pure salad oil be dropped on the part as soon as the flour has formed into a paste.

SICKNESS IN BABIES.

The subject of child-nursing does not belong to my own branch of the profession, yet I shall perhaps be allowed to give you a few hints, that may not be altogether valueless ; for it always happens, that whatever line of practice one may take up, and more particularly study, a great deal of neighbouring information must be acquired. I think it might be as well to say here, that when an infant, without other signs of illness, suddenly

begins to throw up all the milk it swallows, you should not instantly physic the little thing, as is too much the custom. In general, this occurrence is not so much to be attributed to the child as to some fault in the health of the mother, which renders her milk unwholesome, and therefore the child's stomach rejects it. Do not then, on any account, dose the infant; let it be perfectly quiet, and when hungry, it may be tried with some skimmed cow's milk, slightly sweetened with sugar, but without bread or biscuit-powder, which is sure to disagree with a very young child. In the meantime the mother's health may be attended to medically, and anything wrong with the digestion, or other function, corrected.

SHADING THE EYE.

Both grown-up people and children are, as you know, subject to inflamed eyes, and in all such cases it is useful to keep away the light; but when this has been recommended for a child, it is often very annoying to find that people do this by tying a handkerchief over the forehead and upper part of the face. This is a very bad plan: it heats the inflamed part, and so does, at the least, as much mischief as the light could do. The proper method is to use what is called a shade, made of a piece of cardboard, large enough to hang over the eye,

covered with some dark-coloured stuff, and tied over the brow by a piece of tape or narrow ribbon. A shade, thus arranged, will keep the light sufficiently away, and, as it merely hangs over the eye, will not heat that part.

You must not attempt to undertake the treatment of an inflamed eye ; for it is in many instances utterly impossible for a person not medically educated, to say, whether the disease may not be in a part, that is very delicate, most essential to sight, and therefore, whether the disease may be dangerous or not. Yet I may say, that when a child or other person has merely a slight cold in the eye, it will often be relieved by bathing it in hot water,—so hot indeed as to be only just short of pain, and by shading it from the light. Be however very careful not to mistake an affection of far more importance, for a mere cold.

When any person of a family or household has a wound, or other disease, producing discharge, great pains must be taken to prevent any linen or other substance, that can be soiled therewith, touching the eye of any one. Certain species of such matter, or discharge, is so injurious to the eye, that the slightest speck of it in that part will set up a violent inflammation, of so bad a character as to cause, in a few hours, total and hopeless blindness.

CONVULSIVE FITS.

Children are—as many a mother but too well knows—subject to convulsions, which are serious or not, according to the severity and the time at which they commence. Indeed we will take a wider view of this subject; for all ages are liable to fits, as they are called, in which a short convulsive struggling takes place. It would be simply ridiculous, were I to enter deeply into this most complicated subject, and to attempt to tell you the various causes and treatment of these maladies; I may however be able to draw a useful distinction between those that are serious, and those that are trifling, enabling you to tell one from the other. We will take the most usual convulsive maladies, viz., 1, Infantile Convulsions; 2, Epilepsy; 3, Hysteria. Let us examine their peculiarities, and look into the history and probable future of all three. Infantile convulsions begin in some children very early indeed,—perhaps you may be surprised to hear that sometimes, even before birth, the infant is convulsed, that from these fits result a certain class of deformity, such as the club-foot, the cure of which we have lately brought to such perfection. But if an infant, after birth, is frequently convulsed, it is a bad sign; yet the medical man may find sufficient cause for these fits in some evil state of the stomach or bowels; from

the presence of worms, from some illness of the mother affecting the milk, or other unimportant cause. If the convulsions come on at the time of teething, they probably arise from this passing and slight disturbance; so that if the doctor and the child between them overcome the irritation, the health will not have been injured by the attack. If, on the other hand, the fits occur frequently during the time of teething, and for some time after, it is to be feared that the brain or other part of the nervous mechanism is affected, that the convulsions are the sign of a grave disease, which may end in death, or that they will deepen into epilepsy.

Now Epilepsy is a very distressing disease,—often, I am sorry to say, incurable; and the longer it has continued, the less manageable it becomes. Moreover the fits grow more frequent and violent, and, as time goes on, they begin to affect the mind, rendering it weak, forgetful, even idiotic. Therefore let a medical man be consulted at the very outset of the disease. It is of course impossible, that I should give you any directions about the treatment of this terrible malady. I mention it only to show you, on the one hand, to what neglected infantile convulsions may lead; and, on the other, to draw a distinction, which you would in general be able to recognize, between the epileptic and hysteric fit, so that you may not be needlessly frightened in the

one case, nor over-careless in the other. The epileptic fit, though occasionally commencing with infantile convulsions, and continuing throughout child-life, begins generally at some period between the fourteenth and the eighteenth year, and it is at this age also that the hysteric tendency first shows itself; therefore no distinction can be drawn from their time of commencement. A person in an epileptic fit has the hands clenched, the skin cold, and the face dark-purple. In the hysteric fit the hands are open, the fingers spread out, usually clutching at whatever comes in the way; the skin is moist and warm; the face is either pale or red, *light red*. In the epileptic fit there is usually foaming at the mouth, the muscles of the throat are hard and rigid, and there is no attempt at swallowing. A person in the hysteric seizure does not foam at the mouth, but keeps up a constantly repeated action of swallowing; that part in the throat known as the Adam's-apple, rising and falling very rapidly, and each of these attempts to swallow is accompanied with a sort of sob. The epileptic fit ends with deep insensibility: the hysteric, with a seizure of causeless crying and laughing.

With such broad distinctions as these, you would of course be able to distinguish the two diseases; but they are not always so well defined, this or that mark being absent; still, in nearly all cases there

is difference enough to enable you to come to a conclusion.

If any person is in the habit of going into hysterics, the mode of management in her home is of the greatest importance. It must be remembered, that this, though perhaps a real disease, is essentially under the patient's control, unless she have allowed it to become confirmed, to "grow with her growth, and to strengthen with her strength," until it overpower her. Such self-indulgence is much increased by the pity and soft feeling of those about her. The often-repeated "Poor dear!" and "Ah, poor thing! I know what her feelings are!" with other like phrases, are just the best means of setting her off into another fit. An apparent hardness of heart towards all such doings,—only just enough attention to prevent the girl's injuring herself,—and no notice of the past when she comes to herself again,—will often greatly aid in cutting short the attacks and preventing their recurrence. Be particularly careful of what you say in the presence of any one with an hysterical fit; for, although apparently insensible, she hears everything perfectly well; indeed you may sometimes take advantage of this, as once a girl recovered with remarkable quickness, when it was proposed that her hair should be cut quite close. It is often necessary to treat a person liable to the

hysteric fit with actual severity, because, if she is one among a number of women, the malady is very apt to spread. Thus in an hospital ward, where perhaps a good many of the patients are convalescent, or in a girls' school, if one inmate has an attack, another and another take the fit, till nothing but the most rigid measures can stop the contagion. I can assure you, that it is most mistaken kindness to show pity or great consideration to persons who "give way to hysterics." Let me now run over again the peculiarities of these three diseases.

1st. *Infantile Convulsions*; Serious or not, according to their severity, to the period of their commencement, and to the length of time during which they continue.

2nd. *The Epileptic Fit*; Always a grave disease, less curable the longer it has lasted, and therefore the sooner should medical advice be sought.

3rd. *The Hysteric Seizure*; Serious or not, according as the will of the sufferer is, or is not, strong enough to combat with and overcome the disease. Hysterics will not kill; but if a woman lets them conquer her, she becomes a slave to herself and to all about her.

FAINTING.

If from any cause,—whether a sudden shock of

grief or fright, or from loss of blood,—a person faint, lay her flat on her back, and do not raise the head. Fainting comes from the blood not passing to the brain ; and is of course more likely to continue, while she is in the upright position, and while the head is high. I say *she*, because fainting occurs more readily in women, than it does in men, and because I am reminded of a severe case of this sort in a girl. Facts impress themselves more strongly on the mind, than directions, and therefore I cannot do better, than relate to you the circumstances of the case. Some time ago I was staying with a medical gentleman in the country, when he was sent for, very hurriedly, to see a young lady, who was said to be dying. As my friend was absent, I went in his stead, but it seemed too late. The face was deadly pale, the eye turned up under the lid, there was no pulse at the wrist, nor do I think the heart could be felt to beat ; it was not desirable to waste time in ascertaining, whether it did beat or not, for minutes even were of value. I had her taken from the chair, laid down flat on the floor, and, in a very little time, the pulse began to revive. She had been deluged with cold water to no avail ; but now hot flannels to the bosom, over the heart, in the armpits, and heat to the feet, brought her partially round, and I was able to leave for a short time, assuring her friends, that if

she were not disturbed till visited again she was safe. She got so much better, that, in my absence, they tried to remove her upstairs ; on raising her head she again fainted. In the end, a bed had to be brought into the room, and she remained for some days in a horizontal position, before it was considered safe to move her. Of course such extreme cases of fainting are rare, nor is it advisable, that I should relate the distressing circumstances, which led to so great weakness, and as nearly to death as can be imagined ; but the instance will serve to impress upon your memory the very important point of keeping the head low in all severe such cases of fainting. Do not mingle in your mind attacks with apoplexy. In these the face is red or purple, and they arise from too large a quantity of blood in the brain ; therefore, when a person becomes insensible, with the face pale, keep the head low ; when with the face red, keep the head high. There is another point with regard to fainting, which you should observe. You know, that if a woman falls into this state, it is the common practice to sprinkle her with cold water, and it is a very good plan, if it be not carried too far. If however the face, bosom, and hands become cold, that very condition will prevent her recovering ; therefore, when this occurs, the cold should be changed for hot applications, such as heated flan-

nels, etc., for sudden changes of temperature will have the proper effect much better, than the continued application of either one or the other.

The subject of position, may lead us to consider some other occurrences, in which it is of importance.

When a person is choked from drawing a morsel of food or other solid matter into the windpipe, he will more readily be relieved of this substance, if, instead of remaining upright, he get into a horizontal position. The best plan is to kneel upon the ground, and to let the chest and body lie on the seat of a chair; the head however must not hang down, but should be held by somebody in a straight line with the back. In this posture the substance is more likely to be coughed out of the windpipe, than when the body remains upright.

Many people, particularly women, who are getting into years, are subject to an enlargement of the veins of the leg, and it occasionally happens, that one of these vessels will burst, causing a great escape of blood. As this blood comes from a vein, and the direction of the stream in that tube is upwards from the leg towards the body, it is worse than useless to tie a string or garter round the leg above the injury. The sufferer should lie on the back, with the foot raised high above the body, and this simple change in position is generally

sufficient to make the blood flow along the vein instead of out at the opening. You will be able to tell, when the bleeding is from a vein, by the dark purple colour of the blood, and by its even flow. When the blood comes from an artery it spirts forth in a jerky manner, and is of a bright scarlet colour. The bleeding from veins is generally less dangerous, than that from arteries; but nevertheless, when such an accident as I have just mentioned occurs, a surgeon should be sent for, that he may close the wound; the position will, in the meantime, prevent a great loss of blood.

When the nose bleeds, the blood generally comes from very fine arteries, and such occurrences, if frequent, are very weakening, even dangerous; therefore a medical man should be consulted, that he may find the cause and check this tendency. Danger may also arise from a single attack continuing so long, as to cause great loss of blood; therefore it is right to have medical assistance. But, in the meantime, you will find the following means very powerful in stopping the flow of blood: Let the sufferer sit on the ground, with the head thrown back and resting on the seat of a chair, while some one, standing on another chair or on a table, pours, from as great a height as he can reach, a fine stream of very cold water on the patient's face and brow. You must be careful how-

ever not to imagine, that bleeding has stopped because, while the head is in this position, the blood does not come out of the nostril to the lip, for, under these circumstances, it is apt to flow the other way, namely through the back nostrils into the throat.

LECTURE IV.

LEECHES.—CAUTION AGAINST INDISCRIMINATE USE.—MODE OF APPLYING.—CAUTION WITH CHILDREN.—TAKING OF LEECHES.—PRESERVING THEM.—STOPPING THE BLEEDING.—BLISTERS.—MODE AND TIME OF APPLYING.—ACTION ON THE URINARY ORGANS.—DRESSING A BLISTER IN TWO MODES.—HOT DRY APPLICATIONS.—WHEN USEFUL.—HOW MADE.—BATHS.—DIFFERENT SORTS.—THEIR ACTION.—HALF-DROWNED PERSONS.—THEIR TREATMENT.—ARTIFICIAL BREATHING.—FROZEN PERSONS.—TREATMENT.—FROST-BITES.—TREATMENT.

It is necessary that every one, undertaking to nurse a sick person, should know how to use certain applications which medical men are in the habit of ordering ; I mean such external remedies as leeches, blisters, etc. etc. The doctor cannot afford the time to see that these things are properly done, but must trust them to the attendants or friends of the patient, and they are therefore matters which every woman should understand something about.

APPLICATION OF LEECHES.

Leeches are in many cases an extremely valuable remedy ; but I must, while telling you how to ap-

ply them, caution you strongly against using them indiscriminately, that is, without proper authority. There are several sorts of inflammation in which leeches would do incalculable injury; in certain constitutions they would be hurtful; indeed there are conditions of atmosphere, shown by the prevalence of peculiar diseases, when the application of leeches is apt to be dangerous. When this remedy has been prescribed, it is desirable that it should be used with as little fatigue and discomfort to the patient as possible; and the first thing necessary for this purpose is to overcome all fear of the animals themselves,—an easy matter, as there is nothing to be afraid of. When the number ordered comes from the druggist in the wooden box, in which they are usually sent, they should be shaken into a glass or mug of cold water, to refresh them a little; but they must be watched, that none may crawl over the sides of the vessel and get away. After a few minutes they may be taken out of the water, put upon, and softly dried between two folds of, a towel; they should not be touched by the hand. Shake them into a dry part of the napkin, so held in the hand as to form a cup-like hollow, in which the leeches can lie. Turn this over upon the part to be treated, so that the leeches are enclosed between the patient and a fold of the linen, and keep them there until they bite, by gently pressing the edges

of this cup-like hollow upon the skin. Avoid holding them in the hand, or touching them more than necessary, for the contact of the fingers seems often to annoy them and to prevent their biting. This method of managing leeches is very rapid : thirty or forty can be thus applied as soon as two or three : but it is only available in the case of a flat or round even surface, such as a joint, the chest, or stomach. If the leech is to bite on one particular point of skin, such as the edge of the nostril, or the corner of the eye, a leech-glass should be used. This is a tube of glass open at both ends, but larger at one than at the other. To use it successfully, you must observe which is the head and which the tail of the animal. Place the creature on a dry towel, and let him crawl about, till you find which end he advances with ; you will see that he draws up his tail till his body is thick, and bent like a hoop ; he fixes it on the towel by a sort of sucker, and then he advances the head, moving it from side to side. When he has stretched his body till it is quite thin and small, he fastens on the towel with his head, and again pulls the tail after it. When you have made out the difference between the two ends of the animal, take hold of him with a little bit of rag between the finger and thumb, put him head foremost into the large end of the leech-glass, and when by a little management you have got him

entirely into the tube, place the small end of it on the spot, where he is to bite. When he is fixed, you may withdraw the tube; but if, as sometimes happens, he holds the glass with his sucker-like tail, do not drag it forcibly away, for you may thereby pull him from the patient's skin; twist the tube a little, and draw it gently at the same time, but if he will not leave it, let it hang by its own weight; the inconvenience thereof will soon cause him to let the glass fall: thus you must be ready to catch it, that it may not break. Leech-bites in children frequently bleed very freely, so much so, as almost to cause death; therefore, in applying them to infants, be careful that they fix over a bone or some hard part, that will bear the pressure necessary to stop the flow of blood; if for the neck, they must be put on the top of the breast-bone; if for a higher part of the throat, on the angle of the lower jaw; if on the head, be particularly careful that it does not fix on that part, which is still remaining open for some time after birth. It is rare that leeches are put on the head of an infant, but if it ever fall to your lot to do so, remember this caution. Sometimes leeches will not come away after having filled themselves, but fall into a sort of sleepy state; do not pull them off, for then they leave the teeth in the wound, to the subsequent annoyance of the patient. Put a grain or

two of salt on them, as near the head as you can ; and if this does not effect the purpose, you may touch them with a piece of rag wetted with spirits of wine, Eau-de-Cologne, any other strong spirit, or with vinegar. When the leeches are removed, it is usual to encourage a little more bleeding by putting on a warm poultice of bran or linseed-meal ; if the bleeding is to be stopped, when the leeches come away, it may be done by exposing the surface to the air, or by pressure ; if this do not suffice, by putting a piece of sticking-plaister over the bites, or, still better, by covering them with a little of that woolly stuff, which you may pluck from one side of a piece of lint ; small pieces of German tinder placed on them will also generally stop the bleeding.

It is commonly believed, that leeches will only bite once, but this is not the fact. They certainly are better, if they have not been previously used ; but as they are very expensive, poor people should not kill them, for they may be wanted again. To preserve them, they should be made to disgorge with only a very little salt, then be thrown into cold water, which must be frequently changed ; they may be kept in a bottle, with a piece of muslin tied over the mouth, but the bottle must not be more than half full.

APPLICATION OF BLISTERS.

Blisters are prescribed for slower forms of disease than leeches, being intended to produce such an action on the skin, as shall check a deeper-seated and more lingering inflammation. The time necessary for this purpose varies very much; because the irritability of the skin differs in different persons, and chiefly because all blistering plaister is not equally strong. It will, in general, be found, that from six to eight hours is sufficient; but some blisters are made of a weaker material, and require twelve. The action of the plaister is much quickened, and rendered surer, by moistening its surface, before applying it, with oil. When a blister has been on about six hours, you may lift up a corner of it to see whether it is acting at all; and when the scarf-skin has risen over the chief part of the surface, the plaister should be altogether removed. There are two modes in which the scarf-skin may rise,—either in great bladders, two or three covering all the surface, or in little blisters, about the size of millet-seed, closely set together over the whole part. When, on examination, you find the surface thus covered, you must not replace the plaister, for these small blisters will probably soon rise into one bladder, and you will find this kind of millet-seed blister much more irritable, than those which rise at once in larger surfaces.

In certain constitutions a blister will produce great pain and irritation, together with some unpleasant action on the urinary organs. Sprinkling the surface of the plaister, before its application, with finely-powdered camphor greatly diminishes these inconveniences. The violent effect, which the application of a blister sometimes has on the bladder, forms a strong objection to their use with children.

The mode in which the blistered surface is afterwards to be treated depends on the surgeon's directions; for he may either deem it desirable, that it shall be kept open for some time, and that the discharge be considerably promoted, or he may advise it to be healed at once. In the former case, he will order some kind of ointment or cerate for this purpose. Before its application the blister should be pricked, and, that the salve may come in direct contact with the true skin, the loose scarf-skin must be removed in the following manner. Take hold of it with the finger and thumb of the left hand at the part pricked, raise it gently from the surface, and cut, with a small pair of sharp scissors, all round the loose portion as close as possible to where it becomes attached to the true skin at the edge of the blister; let the surface of the blister be tenderly dabbed with a soft, clean sponge and warm water, then dried gently with a

piece of lint, and after this the ointment can be applied.

If, on the contrary, it is deemed advisable to heal the blister at once, it may be treated much like a burn. The pain is usually less if the scarf-skin be pricked and the fluid allowed to escape; then the surface should be carefully washed and covered with lint, on which some simple cerate is spread, or, after removing the scarf-skin, the surface may be sprinkled over with some fine flour.

HOT DRY APPLICATIONS.

Of all external remedies nothing is more commonly in use among the profession and the public than various sorts of hot applications, either wet or dry. Of the hot wet ones something will be said in a future Lecture, when the making or cooking of various articles will be spoken of: we will now consider hot dry applications. These may be used for several different purposes; either for keeping or restoring warmth throughout or in some part of the body, or for the sake of relieving nervous pain with or without swelling.

We shall shortly have to consider some cases, in which it is desirable to apply heat to different parts of the surface as quickly as possible. Every one knows, that bottles of hot water wrapped in flannel, bricks heated in the oven and similarly

clothed, then placed close to the patient, are very useful for this purpose. Some small bottles (phials) may likewise be thus employed for other parts of the body. The places where the application of external heat is most beneficial in restoring circulation and general warmth to the body, are the pit of the stomach and the armpits. It is for this latter place that small bottles or phials are desirable; while, for the pit of the stomach, nothing so heavy as water can be used. The best mode of applying heat to that part is by the salt-bag. Put some salt into the hot oven, or, if you have none, into a frying-pan over the fire, and, while it is heating, make a closely stitched bag of flannel, or if inconvenient, of linen or calico; and when the salt is very hot, fill the bag half full, sew it up, and lay it on over the place named. The action of dry heat thus applied over a large part of the body is very great. It is used in certain cases of exhaustion, where, either from long-continued and excessive excitement—from enduring muscular action—from long exposure to cold, or from other causes,—the nervous force is, for the time, completely worn away. Remark, that this is altogether different to exhaustion from loss of blood; the symptoms are not even the same; the causes are perfectly distinct, and the management must be different. Do not therefore, on any account, use

these hot applications, when a person is fainting from loss of blood ; but, in the above-mentioned cases, you may put hot-water bottles to the feet and between the thighs, phials of hot water or hot bricks to the armpits and sides of the chest, and a bag of hot salt over the heart and to the pit of the stomach. Of course you will take care to wrap all the bottles, etc. in flannel if possible, if not, in linen ; you will see, that all the corks are tight, and that none of the things are hot enough to scorch the skin. Bags filled with hot sand are not unfrequently used as a means of warmth. Sand-bags retain the heat a little longer, than those filled with salt, but they are much heavier, and therefore cannot be so comfortably used in the same situations.

In certain sorts of pain, such as I would call “nervous,” the application of dry heat to the spot is very soothing. The pain, that I speak of, is such as may be exemplified by ear-ache, or that uneasy flickering in the lower eyelid, which often leads to a settled pain in the part. Observe, that in these cases there is no swelling, no redness in fact, no external symptoms to mark that there is an unusual flow of blood to the part ; in these instances dry heat is useful, but when there is swelling or redness, moist heat is preferable. Persons who suffer much from tooth-ache or ear-ache, have usually

a quantity of especially favourite remedies, which they apply to the part according as the fancy seizes them, such for instance as a burnt fig, a scorched onion, etc. What is wanted is merely dry heat, and I do not imagine, that a more convenient mode of applying it will easily be found, than the hot salt-bag. It can of course be made of any size or shape, according to the part, and may be fastened on the head with tapes sewn to the bag at the points best suited to its shape and intended position. It will be necessary to make a few observations in my next Lecture on the modes of fastening applications to the head and face, and I will therefore not enter on the subject here.

BATHS.

I believe, that most persons have very indistinct ideas attached to the phrase 'warm bath.' It is of course known to consist of some vessel containing a quantity of warm water, into which some person is to be put; but how hot the water is to be, how long the individual is to be kept in it, and why he is put there at all, remain very indefinite indeed. I cannot, in so short a space, pretend to tell you the mode, in which baths of various temperatures act on the body; but I can tell you what those actions are, and how far they may, in different conditions, be carried; I can also speak of the mode of pre-

paring baths, and of the heat at which, for different purposes, they should be used.

Baths are variously named, according to their temperature; thus we call them cold, tepid, warm, and hot. The cold bath is hardly employed as a part of medical treatment, at least not of that treatment with which a nurse has anything to do. The habit of taking a cold-bath, winter and summer, on first rising in the morning, is, I am glad to say, very much increasing. It not only preserves the skin pure, and keeps the circulation therein vigorous, but it also tends to guard the person so habituated against colds. The tepid bath is made of water, from which the chill has been taken, and is of no medical value, except for those persons whose strength is not sufficient to bear actual cold water.

The warm bath is extremely useful in many diseases, and particularly so in children; it ought also to be taken more frequently by healthy persons, who cannot, or will not, use the cold water every morning. The temperature of this bath should be between 90 and 98 degrees of the thermometer;* that is, from the actual heat of the blood to eight degrees below it. Never trust to the hand, or to the sensation of the patient, as an index of the warmth of the water, for nothing can be more

* Fahrenheit's thermometer.

deceptive than such a test ; and by making the bath over-hot a different effect to the one intended will be produced.

The warm bath is to soothe irritation, or to restore after fatigue. When infants are suffering pain, say from teething, and become restless, the warm bath soothes and quiets them, diminishing the irritable fever ; even when the continued pain shall have produced its effects on the whole nervous system, giving rise to convulsions, the warm bath checks them, and restores quiet action. In grown-up persons similar results are produced, less strongly of course, than in the more delicate frames of children ; and we find the over-tired man is refreshed by the bath,—that one bruised by a fall, or strained by an over-violent exertion, is soothed, and that the pain is lessened.

There can be very little difficulty in preparing a bath of this sort for a child ; a small tub and a kettle of hot water being all that is necessary. Let the heat of your bath mount only to 90 or 93 degrees, and do not let the child remain in longer, than from five to ten minutes, according to the age. Of course, on taking the infant out of the water, you will dry him well, and quickly, without exposing him to cold. The great difficulty, with a grown-up person, is the size of the vessel in which the bath must be made. In many towns, slipper

and other baths are let out for a small expense, at different tinmen's shops. In many other towns there are Baths and Washhouses; but I fear that these are not made use of as fully as they ought to be, because there is a general idea that people catch cold after a warm bath, unless they go immediately into a warmed bed. Now this notion is not true; indeed it is the direct opposite to truth; for it is extremely unlikely that a person just out of a warm bath should catch cold. I conceive that no healthy man would be the worse for using such a bath in the depth of winter, and then, with his usual clothing, walking briskly home. The grown-up person, if of tolerably robust frame, should take his warm bath between the degrees of 94 and 98, rather avoiding the higher verge of heat; and a quarter of an hour is long enough to remain in the water, for both a higher temperature and a longer time will tend to weaken.

By the establishment of Baths and Washhouses, warm bathing has been lately placed much more at the service of the public; it has therefore seemed advisable, that I should enter at some length into its use and value. Now let me say a few words of what may be its abuse. When the water in a bath exceeds 98 degrees in temperature it is called hot, and its effects are rather different to those of the warm water. The first effect of the hot bath is

to excite; the pulse beats quicker, and the limbs swell, so that rings, which may have remained on the fingers, become too tight. Then comes a slight fullness, and giddiness of head, a sensation of languor, and if the person still remain in the water he will faint. Such a bodily state as this should never be produced, except for some especial medical reason; and it is to warn you against it, that I have mentioned it, and have told you not to prepare baths, without using the thermometer.

Another sort of bath is the vapour bath; but the difficulty, which any one of small means would have in preparing this in their own house, renders it unadvisable that I should give any particular description of it, and we will therefore leave the subject altogether.

TREATMENT OF DROWNED PERSONS.

Let us pass on to consider one of those cases, where the life of a fellow-creature may depend on the vigorous and properly directed use of some of the applications we have been considering. It may happen, that on some occasion you are called upon to aid in the recovery of a half-drowned person,—of one to all appearance a corpse. Now the old plan used to be, to hold the person up by the feet, that the water might run out of the mouth; this was done under the mistaken idea that the water would

kill him, while in truth it is not the water itself, but the want of air, which is the cause of death. Such a person is in fact smothered, but by water, instead of with a pillow, like the children in the Tower. When a person is dying from smothering or want of air, the veins of the brain are very much filled with blood ; and therefore hanging him up by the feet is perhaps the most rapid possible method of putting out what little spark of life may yet remain.

To preserve life, he should be laid down before a fire, and stripped as quickly and gently as possible. As each garment is removed, the part should be covered up with a blanket, while some one, with the hand beneath it, should rub the skin quite dry with a woollen cloth. The unfortunate should then be got to bed, with hot water bottles to the feet and to the armpits ; a bag of hot salt should, as soon as possible, be placed over the pit of the stomach and heart. The room, in which the patient is laid, should be warm, but airy ; let me therefore here warn you against allowing a quantity of curious neighbours to crowd round the bed, keeping away the fresh air ; have just enough in the room to be of use, then every additional person is worse than useless. When once the patient is in bed, two assistants will be all-sufficient ; in order to get him to bed you may perhaps want as

many as four persons. If the various hot applications are not quickly successful, and if, in a few minutes, medical assistance has not arrived, what is next to be done? There is a means of producing breathing,—an artificial breathing,—which certainly ought to be tried, as it frequently restores life; but it must be thoroughly understood and well performed, or it will do more harm than good.

You have doubtless all observed, that when a person breathes, his chest rises and falls,—rises, namely, when air passes into it, falls when the air passes out. You will at once perceive, that there must be a position of the chest between emptiness and fullness, which we will call a state of rest. Artificial breathing consists in pressing the chest smaller than it is in this state of rest, then leaving it free again to expand to this state, and thereby to draw in a certain quantity of air; again squeezing it, leaving it free, and so on. This then is simply an imitation of the essential part of breathing, viz. the admission and expulsion of air to and from the lungs.

In children this may be done by two people simply with the hands. One person must grasp the chest and squeeze it, while the other presses the belly at the same time, and the pressure on both parts of the body must cease at the same moment: these actions ought to be repeated about

twenty or thirty times in a minute. With grown-up people there is more difficulty, because of their greater size and of the greater hardness and strength of the ribs ; it is better therefore to adopt the following means. Open a jack-towel at the seam, or unsew a sheet, so that you may have a narrow cloth of sufficient length ; pass one end of it under the patient, and draw this on the other side till its middle lies beneath him ; then cross the ends over his chest. One person on the left side of the bed should take the end that comes beneath the patient's right arm ; another, on the right side, the other end of the sheet or towel. Now if these persons pull both together at their ends of the towel, the chest will be compressed ; and still more so if a third person squeeze, at the same time, the upper part of the belly, pushing it a little upwards under the ribs. When they relax their pressure the chest will expand again, drawing a little air into the lung ; and if these actions be repeated thirty times a minute, if possible, the whole amount of air, forced into the chest during that time, is tolerably large. All this may and ought to be done with the patient still covered.

This plan of operations should not be given up too soon ; it is however very hard work, and there ought to be relieving parties, so as to ensure its being properly carried out. When, perhaps, after

a time, the patient shall open his eyes and give that long, deep sigh—that plaintive acknowledgment of return to life—you will not, I imagine, think much of the fatigue.

EFFECTS OF COLD.

In this climate it is unusual, but still occasionally happens, that persons are frozen to death; indeed, during the coldest part of last winter, 1854-55, several persons much exposed to night air, viz. one or two policemen and others, were thus killed. It does not appear to be a painful sort of death, for, after a time, the sensation of cold ceases, and the individual only seems aware of the most intense sleepiness; but if he slumber, it is for ever. Any one, who is with a person thus attacked, must strive, by every possible means, to prevent his sleeping; walking him along, shaking, pommelling him,—in fact everything must be tried, for keeping him awake is keeping him alive.

If a man, not quite so far gone as this, come to a house, he will, at first sight, appear to the inmates as though he were wretchedly and stupidly drunk. The eyes stare and swim in the head, are glazed, and either fixed, or wander unmeaningly; the head hangs, and if he attempt to speak, the voice comes from the throat thick and indistinct. Be careful, in very cold weather, not to turn such

a person from your door merely on suspicion of drunkenness ; distinguish very carefully, and if you err, let it be on the side of mercy. If you admit him, finding that he is frozen, do not put him in a well-warmed room, nor close to a fire, for the sudden change would be torture, perhaps death. To him a cold room is pleasant ; such a chamber as would feel like a vault to one coming from the fireside, is to him of the most agreeable temperature. A little weak brandy-and-water may be given him, and some broth, if it can be got ready ; by degrees he may be brought into a warmer room and prepared for bed. The garments must be very carefully removed, particularly from the feet, because if any of the toes are frost-bitten, violence may actually drag them off in the boot. Those parts, in which the blood does not yet flow freely, which are benumbed and have a white, dead look, may be chafed and rubbed gently with the hand, but must not be held to the fire or put in hot water. The bed in which the man is put must, of course, be aired, but not warmed ; he may be covered thickly and warmly.

Cold is very exhausting, and the frozen person must be fed, but very carefully ; in fact, as people are seldom thus attacked by cold unless also partially starved, and as the mode of feeding will be the same in both instances, one description will suffice.

The food must be very sparingly given, but pretty frequently, for the stomach, weakened by long fast, would reject a heavy quantity; thus also it is better if the nourishment be liquid. A table-spoonfull or two of bread and milk, or of broth, every ten minutes; a glass of sherry or a little brandy-and-water may be given by teaspoonfulls in the intervals. In a short time, when sufficient food has been taken, the sufferer will fall asleep, and may be permitted to slumber for about two hours; and then more food may be given, still with a sparing hand, until the stomach has accustomed itself, and then the man may be left to his own governance.

Besides this general effect of severe cold there is a partial injury, known by the name of Frost-bite. It is caused by a gradual stopping of the circulation, and therefore begins in those parts furthest from the heart, viz. the tips of the toes or fingers. These injuries are, in their appearance and mode of action, remarkably like burns; they go through the same stages and have the same degrees. In burns of the first class we must, as I told you, endeavour to keep on the scarf-skin, by bringing the burnt part, by slow degrees, into the usual temperature. In frost-bites we try to recall life to the part by slowly leading it through slightly greater and increasing warmth, to bear the general

heat of a living-room. In either case we should greatly injure, by a sudden change from heat to cold, or from cold to heat ; a great deal more skin would be thus destroyed, than when we slowly recall the usual degree of warmth ; thus, as the burnt limb was put into warm water, which however was not nearly so hot, as the temperature which burnt ; so a frost-bitten part must be put into cold water, which is not nearly so cold as the air, which froze. The person must not, of course, be brought into a well-warmed room ; in fact, all sudden changes must be carefully avoided. If, after this, the skin come away from a frozen part, it may be treated just like a burn, with linseed-oil and lime-water, or with flour. Among sailors who have been far northward, either in trading whalers, or as searchers for that highly useful North-west Passage, frost-bites of a more severe kind have taken place,—so severe as entirely to kill the limb attacked, as the hand or foot, and to cause it afterwards to separate from the sound parts, leaving a stump, as though a surgical operation had been performed.

LECTURE V.

CHILBLAIN.—DESCRIPTION.—TREATMENT.—BRUISES.—SPRAIN.
 —DISTINCTION OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS.—TREATMENT BY
 HEAT; BY BANDAGE.—VARICOSE VEINS.—APPEARANCE, SEAT,
 AND EFFECTS.—BANDAGES.—LEG-BANDAGE.—HAND-BAND-
 AGE.—DOUBLE-HEADED AND TWO-TAILED BANDAGE.—THE
 T BANDAGE.

WE concluded our last Lecture with some mention of the effects of severe cold upon a limb or other part of the body, when the action was sufficiently intense to kill the part attacked by what is called frost-bite. Let us go on to consider a less violent effect of cold, or rather of irregular changes between cold and heat, namely, Chilblain. This troublesome state arises mostly in children, and in those of a feeble constitution and circulation; in such persons, namely, as suffer much from cold hands and feet, and in whom these parts look blue under a very small degree of cold. They begin with a tingling hot sensation about some spot of skin in the hand or foot; this part soon gets red, and the burning sensation increases, until it is almost unbearable.

There can be no doubt, that if we are to cure

the chilblain at all, we must attack it at once in this early stage ; and a vast number of remedies have been tried, such as camphor-liniment, soap-liniment, and so on. The great principle however in their treatment, appears to be to provide some means of keeping up an equal temperature and dryness. Thus, if the chilblain be on the hand, a wash-leather glove should be worn ; if it be on the foot, either a sock or a piece of such leather worn next the foot ; and besides this, either the hot or cold plan may be used. The hot plan is one that is not unfrequently successful, and consists simply in dipping the chilblain for a few minutes into hot vinegar, if it is on such a part as can be put into a glass or jar, such as on a finger or toe, or on the heel. When removed, it must be well dried, rubbed, and again put into the leather sock. The cold plan is that more frequently used on the Continent, and differs from the other inasmuch as, instead of dipping the chilblain into hot vinegar, it is to be put into ice-cold water for two or three minutes, or to be rubbed with snow. The choice between these two opposite methods of treatment depends chiefly on the power of the patient's circulation, and the general state of constitution. I should not recommend the cold plan for children, nor for persons of a particularly weak habit, whose hands and feet are very frequently cold or blue.

When chilblains run on, as is not unfrequently the case, particularly in persons inclined to scrofula, they become more red and swelled, producing a very distressing feeling of heat ; then on the top of the swelling something like a blister is formed, the scarf-skin being puffed out with fluid, not a clear but a dark-coloured one, often mixed with blood. When this breaks, there is some relief from the pain for a little time, but only for a little ; it soon comes on again, and in the meanwhile a regular open sore has been set up, which almost lames the limb. In this condition a medical man should always be consulted, for that form of chilblain may end in permanent lameness, while the pain and inconvenience which it produces are very great indeed.

BRUISES.

Blows upon the body are apt, as you know, to make on the part struck a dark blot, called a bruise, which arises from a little blood having been forced out of the small veins and remaining beneath the skin. They are, if small, of no importance, unless about the face, when they are ugly and disfiguring. I do not intend to mention to you any modes of making medicines and lotions, as such directions are often mistaken, and therefore dangerous ; but I may tell you that there are some washes which have the reputation of removing

bruises. One of these is the Arnica lotion, which can be procured at any chemist's; another, which is safer and perhaps more useful, is made of Nitre dissolved in water, and the stronger this is, the better. I fear however that, under all circumstances, a bruise will remain some days,—in fact, until the blood that was squeezed out of the vessels by the blow be absorbed. If in some part of the bruise the skin has been broken by the extreme violence of the blow, a poultice should be applied; when, after a few days, the part becomes still more swollen, particularly if the surrounding skin be red, you should seek medical aid, as these may be signs, that erysipelas is about to set in.

SPRAINS.

Another result of violence is a sprain. This happens chiefly to the ankle or wrist, and may or may not be a serious accident, according to the part injured and to the careful adaptation of the treatment to the form of accident. All sprains are by no means alike; there are different parts in and around the joint, any one of which may be hurt. Indeed, the distinctions between various sorts of sprains are not yet sufficiently recognized, and I shall not be able, nor do I wish, to explain to you the symptoms of the different injuries. I may however tell you, that if very soon after such an ac-

cident the part swell into a soft, pulpy state, the tendons or leaders are hurt, and that the best immediate treatment will be to put the foot into hot water, so hot as to be only just short of pain. Herein the limb must remain for an hour, while the temperature of the bath is kept as high as bearable by the constant addition of more boiling water. When the limb is taken out of the bath, the heat must be preserved by wrapping it in a poultice, in sponge-pileine* wrung out of hot water, in flannel or cotton-wool. This plan of treatment is called the opera-dancer's cure; a woman of this profession is, of course, much subject to strains, while even a temporary lameness would be a great injury to her; but by this method such a person may be so quickly cured, as to enable her on the following night to dance. I will by no means promise you in all cases so rapid a cure, for only one particular form of sprain can be thus quickly got rid of; besides, opera-dancers' legs and ankles are somewhat of the toughest; yet I have not unfrequently seen in delicate ladies the lameness quite disappear in eighteen hours. In other cases the effects of the injury continue for a long time. I cannot pretend to give you the various reasons of this, but must tell you, that in every case of bad sprain you should consult a surgeon; because it may in reality

* An artificial material, described under the head of Poultices.

be another form of injury, such only as a surgeon can detect and treat. Some two years ago a lady came from the west of England, and consulted me about an old sprain; I found that the small bone of the leg had been broken. A few days ago a man came to me at the hospital, in consequence, he said, of still suffering lameness from a sprain he had received in his childhood. On examination, I found he had not merely sprained the ankle, as he had imagined, but that the foot had been dislocated, and that, as the injury was now so old, any hope of restoration was vain. Thus I must warn you not, on any account, to pass over bad sprains, or other hurts about the joint. You must consult a surgeon either at his own house, at an hospital, or dispensary, according to your means, and you will, in all probability, find, that sometime during the progress of the case he will make use of a bandage. You may see him as often as he deems necessary, but the bandage falls loose very frequently: you will not wish to apply to him as often as this takes place, and you therefore will attempt to bandage the limb yourself. If you do this, remember, that bad bandaging is infinitely worse, than none at all.

Some four years ago, when it became known among certain of my connection, that I had paid much attention to the treatment of different sorts of sprains, a gentleman asked me to allow him to

send me his servant, who had long been suffering from lameness thus produced, and who appeared getting worse, in spite of following the directions of a surgeon. When the man came I had no difficulty whatever in accounting for this fact. The limb was deeply scored and inflamed from bad bandaging ; the ankle was tender and swollen ; in fact, he was suffering greatly, more from his wife's awkwardness in applying the remedy, than from the disease itself. As you may have occasion to use a bandage, I will show you how it ought to be applied, that you may rather relieve, than inflict, suffering therewith.

Another case, in which this instrument may be useful, is that of varicose veins. I have mentioned this affection before, as arising in people, more especially in women, who are waxing old and have had rather a hard life, or borne many children. These varicose or enlarged veins make under the skin twisted swellings of a blue colour, and elastic, doughy feet. They are generally largest just beneath, and on the inner side of, the knee, and they give rise to pain and swelling in the limb below them. Frequently also they cause a slow inflammation, which, at last, breaks out into an open and troublesome sore, called an ulcer. The reason of all this is, that on account of the faulty and enlarged veins, the blood does not return from the limb as

quickly as it should do. The object of the bandage is to press the sides of the vessels together, remedying, as far as art can do, the defect of the veins, and so aiding the return of the blood. You will perceive at once, that, for this purpose, the bandage must be put on so smoothly as to press equally all the way up; for if it were to nip a vein closer in one part than in another, it would, instead of helping the blood to flow, only help to stop it.

There are other cases in which bandages may be useful, and they may be applied to other parts of the body; but I will now begin by explaining the leg bandage, and we will consider the others as we proceed.

BANDAGES.

There are several materials from which bandages may be made. Stout linen, which has been used and washed pretty frequently, is excellent—old sheeting for instance. A stout sort of unbleached calico makes very good bandages, and is inexpensive, as the stuff is sold for threepence-halfpenny or fourpence a yard. There is moreover a material woven specially for the purpose, called elastic bandages; I recommend the calico and linen ones, because they are unyielding, and must lie on the limb as they have been applied, whereas the yielding of the elastic bandage prevents its sitting

smoothly. Any one can convince himself of this, by stretching an elastic bandage, when it will be found, that the middle portion becomes hard and tight like a cord, while the sides are loose and wavy. A bandage must sit *even* upon the limb, and to do this it must be equally tight at sides and middle, which can only occur when it is made of an inelastic, unyielding material.

The bandage must be of different lengths or breadths, according to the use to be made of it; that for the leg of a full-grown man must be about three or three-and-a-half inches wide, and two and a half or three yards long; for a child or small-footed woman, it must be somewhat narrower. To prepare it for use, wind it smoothly upon itself as tightly as possible, from one end to the other, and clear away all the loose threads, which are apt, particularly if it be calico, to hang about the edges. Thus prepared, the bandage is named also a roller, and its rolled portion the head.

The whole limb, from the root of the toes to the knee, is to be covered completely, with the exception of a little place near the heel, by this narrow strip of linen, and as it winds round and round the leg, it must press equally on all parts of the skin; that is to say, that not only must each such turn be as tight as the one just above and below it, but also, that at each turn the upper and lower

edge of the bandage must lie equally close. This latter condition depends upon the way in which the bandage is held, as you will see by a simple example. Take a slip of paper and wind it once round a finger, letting it lie quite smoothly, and still holding the projecting end in the other hand; now, by moving this end nearer to the point, or nearer to the root of the finger, you will loosen either the upper or the lower edge of the strip of paper, and cause it to project. What I want you to observe in this example, and what I want to impress upon you as the great key to successful bandaging, is, that after you have once begun to bandage at a certain angle to the skin, you must continue at the same; you cannot choose where your bandage shall go, but must follow its lead along the different curves and various surfaces of the limb. At first you will have both to look and feel carefully at the edges of your bandage, each time that you wind it round, to ensure its lying perfectly smooth; but afterwards the head of the roller will, when both edges are equally tight, give to the hand a certain sensation of equable resistance, which will be an infallible and sufficient guide. By whichever method you proceed, you must, I repeat, let the bandage take that direction, into which the curves of the limb will throw it.

The easiest position, in which the leg can be

bandaged, is to let your patient sit upon a chair, while you sit upon another facing him, with your knees to one side, leaving room for the foot on which you intend to practise, to rest with its heel upon the corner of your chair. But now there comes upon me a little difficulty in writing this part of my Lectures. I could teach my class at the College practically. I took with me rollers of the proper size and length: the attendance of a little boy enabled me to show the various methods of bandaging; and as many of the pupils as liked, were allowed, under superintendence, to try their power with the instrument. But description is very different; it is wordy, and must at all events be dry and uninteresting, however carefully written. So let me tell you at once, that it is quite useless to endeavour to understand these directions by reading them straight through. To make them out, and to profit by them, you must take the bandage in your hand; get some one to lend you a limb for a short practice, and then steadily follow out the descriptions, as ladies do their receipts for fancy-work. Hold the head of the bandage in your right hand, and place its end round some sharp curve in the foot, near the toes, in such a position as will allow it to pass round the foot nearly to the same place, but a little nearer to the instep. While with the left you hold the end of the bandage in this

situation, you must with the right hand pass the bandage once round the foot. I tell you to place the *end* of your bandage round “some sharp curve of the foot,” such as is found, where the outer or inner side passes to the sole; for if you should merely lay it flatly on the back or sole, the next turn of the roller would not confine it to its place, as is now the case; but it would slip away over the skin. The position in which you place this end, or, in other words, the angle at which you begin to bandage, must be such as to allow the roller to run smoothly twice round the foot; and you will thus wind it round by passing the head of the bandage in a circle from the right hand to the left, and *vice versa*, letting more and more unroll from

Fig. 1.

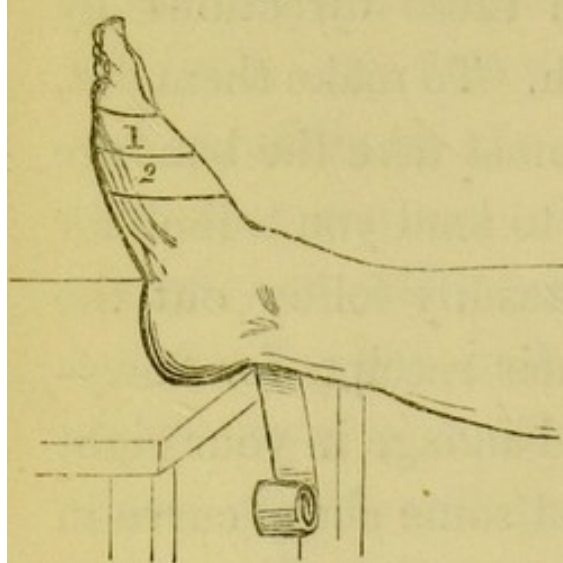
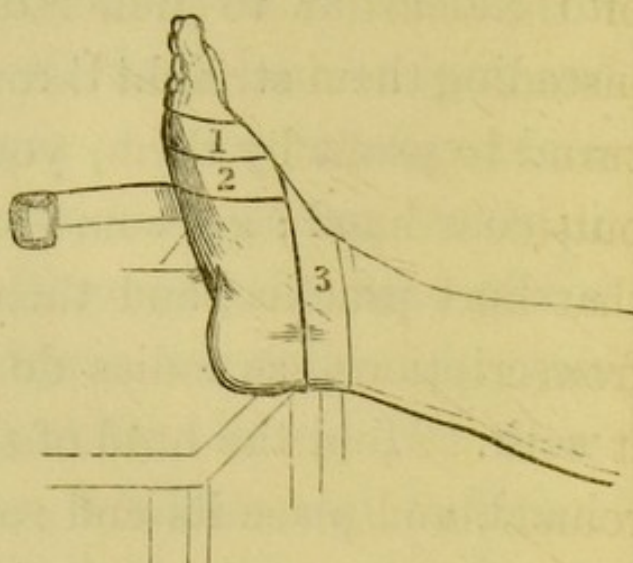


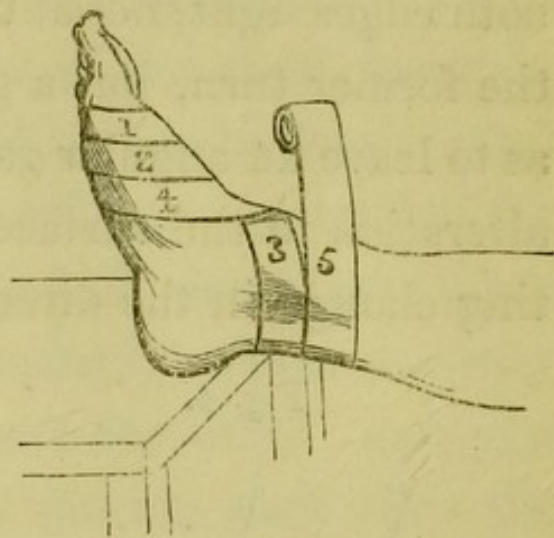
Fig. 2.



the head as it is required. When the bandage comes for the second time upon the instep, you will find, that it naturally inclines from one side

of the foot to the other side of the ankle (Fig. 1); then it will pass round the ankle, and from its side across the instep to the opposite side of the foot, and then under the sole of the foot. Thus will have been completed a sort of figure of 8, (Fig. 2;) one loop of that figure encircling the foot, the other the ankle. This same direction must again be followed, except that the bandage will be on the foot a little further back, and on the ankle a little higher (Fig. 3). The directions

Fig. 3.



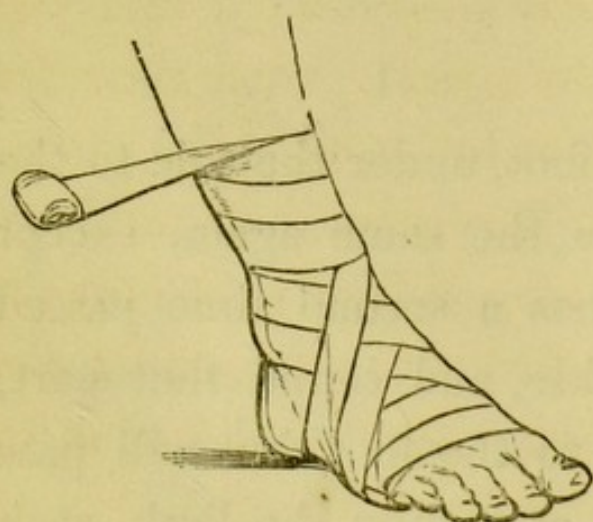
and positions of the separate turns will be these* from outside of the foot across the instep, to inside of the ankle, round to the back, and outside of the ankle, across the instep, and the former turn to the inside of the foot, under the sole to the outside of the foot; then the same again, except that after the bandage has a second time passed from the foot to the ankle, and round that part, it will not again incline to the foot, but will pass round the leg, gradually ascending the limb, each fresh turn overlapping about the upper quarter of the one just preceding it.

* If on the same leg the contrary direction of bandaging be followed, it will only be necessary to change in the text the word *outside* for *inside*, and *vice versa*.

While doing all this, you must be careful not to hold the bandage too long, as is commonly the case with beginners : I mean, with too long a portion between the limb and the head of the roller ; from three to four inches is quite sufficient.

When the bandage has ascended some distance from the ankle, and just as it gets to the swelling of the calf, some new manœuvre is necessary. In consequence of this change of direction in the surface of the limb, the bandage will run, if you keep both edges tight, not at the side of, and overlapping the former turn, but a good deal away from it, so as to leave an angular gap. Therefore to meet this alteration in the surface of the limb, a compensating change in the direction of the bandage must

Fig. 4.



be made by a fold called a half-turn. When you find the bandage begin to leave a gap, as above described, which will happen in the front of the leg, you must carry the head of the roller in your left hand, unwinding

it a little, to some distance from the limb : place the forefinger of the right hand on the lower edge of the bandage, to keep the part already done, tight. Loosen the free part of the bandage with a sudden movement of the left hand ; turning that

hand over, and at the same time bringing it, with the head of the roller, down towards the patient's foot.* By this means the bandage will have been folded, or turned half over, and the hand having been brought at the same time down to the foot, will have rendered this fold very short and abrupt, but also smooth and even. By raising the hand again towards the knee, the half-turn can be lengthened out till the roller follows the desirable direction. When this half-turn has been duly completed, the bandage can be drawn tight, and the finger of the right hand removed. This half-turn will have to be done several times; more or fewer, according as the swell of the calf is greater or less. The folds should take place in the same part of the bandage, so that one may always immediately lie above the other; and you can easily manage this by placing each time the finger of the right hand on the lower edge of the roller, immediately above the former half-turn. In the whole process there is no difficulty; it only requires patience, a hand gifted with some amount of fine sensation, and practice. The two different directions of bandaging must be distinguished from one another; for in certain cases it is necessary to roll in one direction, and in the contrary in certain

* If bandaging be done in the contrary direction, the word *left*, in the text, must be altered to *right*, the word *right* to *left*.

other cases ; but as these are not likely to fall under your care, it is not desirable to take up your time with their consideration, although I should recommend every one wishing to acquire some knowledge of the bandage, to practise both methods of using it.

FINGER BANDAGE.

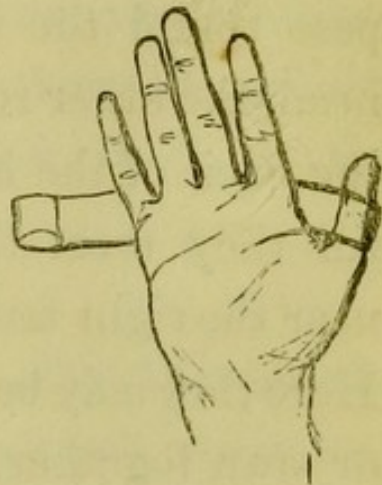
It may happen, that you will have to bandage the hand, and this is to be done by means of a narrow roller called the finger bandage. This is only an inch and a half broad, a yard, or a yard and a half long. In its use you will not find it necessary to make any half-turns whatever, as your choice of direction among the different surfaces of the limb is in truth unlimited. Observe the shape of the hand : it is broadest at the palm, becomes narrower at the root of the fingers, and also where it joins the wrist ; thus if the bandage be brought to the inner side of the hand, to the base of the little finger, it will thence run up towards the wrist ; and if you wish it to go again towards the fingers, you can first bring it just above the ball of the thumb, or of the little finger, when it will naturally take that direction.

It may be, that you bandage to press upon, or to keep an application on the back of the hand, when you need not include the thumb ; and this method of bandaging is so simple, that no direc-

tions more special, than the above, need be given. When pressure is to be made on the palm, it is only requisite to observe, that as the part is hollow, it is necessary to place a pad in it, as the bandage alone will not fulfil this office.

If the thumb must be included in the turns of the bandage, and the hand kept *open*, you should begin by winding the roller round the thumb, in the following direction: namely, from the inner side (that which lies next the hand) to the back; then to the outer side, to the front, and so on. When it has passed the second time from the outer side to the front, bring it between the forefinger and thumb to the back of the hand; and this, when tightened, will draw back the thumb, and keep the palm flat. There are many such contrivances for placing the hand into different positions; you will not probably want many of them, and if you do, it will be better to trust to your own ingenuity, aided by some such slight guide as the above, than to any description pretending to great exactness of detail.

Fig. 5.

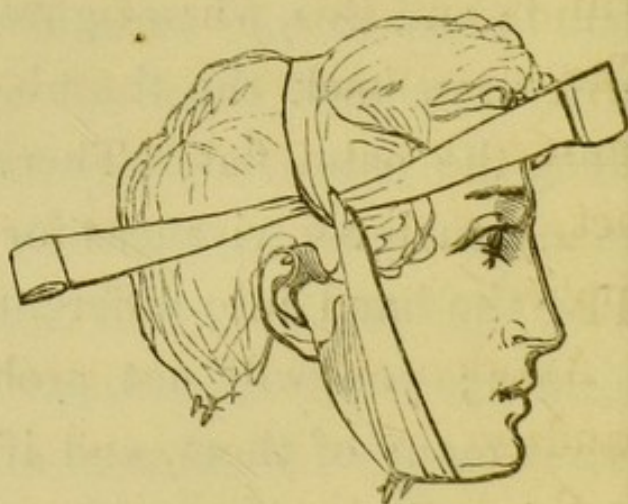


BANDAGES FOR THE HEAD.

A nice way of keeping a plaister or a poultice on

the cheek, in front of the ear, under the chin, on the forehead, top, or back of the head, is by the double-headed roller. This is simply a bandage about the size of a leg-bandage, rolled from both ends to the middle. In applying it, place the centre thereof under the chin; one portion will run over the cheek, to just above the left ear; the other will take the same course on the opposite side, and moreover must pass over the top of the head till it reach the left ear, where it will meet its fellow of the opposite side. Draw on the two ends, till they are as tight as desirable, and then twist them half round each other, so that they form a cross, and that one end will

Fig. 6.



pass round the forehead, the other round the back of the head, till they meet again near the right temple. Here they may be tied or sewn together, and it will be better to do so, if the object of the bandage be merely to keep a poultice on some part of the head or face. If, on the other hand, some degree of pressure be wanted, it will be advisable to continue the bandaging a little longer; therefore, when the ends of the bandage meet again at the right side, they may be strained

tight, twisted half round as before directed, led under the chin and over the head, and again be brought to meet. Thus twisting the ends of the roller half round each other, whenever they come together, so that the direction is changing each time, the bandaging may be continued as long as necessary; but it must be remembered, that the more the head is thus covered, the greater amount of oppression and heat will be produced.

Be careful in applying this bandage, that you do not place it so far back on the chin as to press unpleasantly on the throat; and if you twist it more than twice, avoid making one such turn immediately over the other; for if you do, they will cause very painful pressure on the temple. The advantage of the bandage is, that the patient cannot rub it off against the pillow; nothing, in fact, but wilful mischief can make it, if properly applied, come away.

Another useful contrivance is the two-tailed bandage. This is not so good for most purposes as the last, but is better adapted for keeping an application on the tip or sides of the chin. Take a bandage a yard long, and from three to four inches broad; cut a slit about an inch long in the centre of it, and then tear the bandage down its middle, from each end to within about three inches of this hole; the tip of the chin is to come through

this slit. One tail of the left and one of the right end of the bandage, are to pass under the ear on either side, and must be tied together at the back of the head, where it joins the neck; the other two tails, passing each in front of the right and left ear, are to be tied on the top of the head.

A bandage of this sort may be reversed, and used to keep applications on the crown or back of the head, but then it ought to be much wider,—from six inches to a foot broad, and a yard long. It must be torn along the middle at each end to within half a foot of the centre, leaving of course twelve inches in the middle of the stuff untorn. Now the centre of the bandage is to be put on the crown of the head, and the two tails must hang down by each ear; the two which on either side are furthest back, should be brought forward under the other two and tied at the forehead, the others are to be tied under the chin.

A useful form of bandage for keeping an application to the lower part of the body is called, from its shape, the T-bandage. It is made of a piece of roller about a yard long, to the centre of which is sewn another piece of about the same length, so as to make the whole in shape like a capital T. The first piece mentioned is intended to go round the waist; the second will then hang down behind; but it is to be passed beneath the body, brought

up and fastened in front. Perhaps, however, this bandage is made more wearable by splitting the centre piece and so making it two-tailed, either in front or behind, or both, as the case may be, and sewing these tails at some distance from each other to the waist-piece. In fat persons it may also be necessary to sew upon the waist-piece two other strips of bandage, which are to pass over the shoulders and act like braces.

Upon the foundations now given, many sorts of bandages may be constructed, and an ingenious person will often contrive some very convenient for any special case. Indeed the trade of bandage-maker is, as you know, a separate business, for if India-rubber and springs are called into aid, there is no limit to the different forms of bandage, that may be made.

LECTURE VI.

ON NURSING SEVERE RAPID SICKNESS. — QUALIFICATION OF NURSE. — VALUE OF DISEASE. — DIFFERENT MENTAL AND BODILY STATES IN SICKNESS.—FEVER TAKEN AS TYPE.— VENTILATION OF SICK-ROOM.—ARRANGEMENT OF FURNITURE, ETC.—FIRST CONDITION.—CLEANLINESS.—BED-PAN.—DRAW-SHEET.—MODE OF HOLDING A PATIENT OR LIMB.—OF CHANGING LINEN.—OF WASHING.—BED-SORES; HOW AVOIDED.—CIRCULAR CUSHION.—WATER AND AIR CUSHIONS OR BEDS.—PATIENT'S DIFFICULTY IN DRINKING.—LIFTING THE HEAD.—BENT TUBE.—SECOND CONDITION.—DEPENDENCE ON NURSE.—QUIET.—FLIES TO BE KEPT AWAY.—WATCHFULNESS.—THIRD CONDITION.—PILLOWS.—SAVE STRENGTH.—AMUSEMENT WITHOUT FATIGUE.—RAPID RECOVERY.

WE now come to what may be more particularly called “nursing;” that is, the watching beside the bed of serious sickness, ministering tenderly and skilfully to all its wants.

You will have heard it said again and again, that women make better nurses than men, and such is undoubtedly true; but the woman, who supposes that she is born a good nurse, will never become one. Vanity is the most unfitting passion at the side of the sick-bed, whether it be in doctor or in nurse; for vanity is in its very nature selfish, and

in the sick-room, self must be forgotten. All one's attention must be fixed upon the patient: to learn how to aid in his recovery, or to diminish his sufferings, must be to us a far dearer object, than to show how much we happen to know of the disease, and how valuable our services may be to the invalid, or to his friends.

A good nurse must possess the most untiring patience, the calmest temper, joined with a rapid perception, great power of undergoing fatigue, a strong but well directed will, and a firm but tender hand. The woman, lucky enough to be gifted with all these qualities, must have some training, some knowledge of the sick-room, and of the management of disease; she also must love and honour her occupation, before she can become a first-rate nurse, a model of a nurse.

She must learn to look upon all, even upon the most hideous and dangerous diseases, with neither disgust nor fear; she must teach herself, too, to consider illness not as an unmixed evil, nor as a punishment sent upon the particular sufferer under her charge. I think that all people do not sufficiently and properly consider the value of disease. When in 1848-49 cholera came to this town and hurried away its thousands, did not its visit produce good out of the very evil? Men's minds, ay and women's too, were awakened to the horrors

that were crowding thickly round them. The rich heard of courts and alleys, in which poverty and misery, unholiness and unhealthiness, had reached a height, of which they had no conception. The careless and well-fed man thought, perhaps with some prickings of conscience, on the hard fate of his poorer brother, and may have given to Lazarus more than the mere crumbs, that fell from his table. The drainage of London, chiefly of such courts and alleys, has been improved; the lodging-houses are bound by law to provide better accommodation; the water, supplied by the various companies, has been examined, and they are now obliged by law to furnish it of a purer sort. Do you think the faults of drainage and water-supply are the only vices, which this disease has cured, or at least diminished? It seems to me that a greater amount of thought is now constantly being turned to the condition of the poor, and to the means of helping them. More time is spent by private persons and by the Government in procuring them proper lodging, proper water, and, as far as can be done at present, sufficient food. Perchance this malady may have made many of us better Christians. It may not have attacked those most in fault: the tower of Siloam did not fall on the greatest sinners in Jerusalem.

In the family alone, sickness works marvels. The strong man, confident in his health, following

daily his worldly occupation, is too apt to give all the power and vigour of his mind to earthly matters; but when sick nigh unto death, such cares and pursuits look to him small and trivial, and he perhaps feels, that upon such his life has been wasted. If he recover, he may endeavour to pass his time better, and to purify his heart with thoughts of something higher than his mere business task.

Among the healthy of the family his sickness will call forth the most unselfish feelings of human nature. The gayest and most thoughtless son or daughter will give up a long-cherished scheme of pleasure to sit by his bedside, trying to soothe away his pain, and feel themselves rewarded by a grateful smile. Let us look then upon disease as a good thing, not to be welcomed nor indulged, for such yielding would be a cowardice and selfishness, but a holy thing when it summons the noblest part of us to rise against, to fight with, and if possible to beat it down. The good nurse must consider the sick-room as her appointed field of sacrifice; she must not labour there coldly and heartlessly, as at a necessary but unpleasant task; she must enter it, knowing that there is her sacred duty, which she had better leave undone, than do it carelessly and with a hard heart.

It is not for the sake of introducing a taking subject, nor of rounding off what I have to say

with an appeal to popular feeling, nor indeed of adding my small word of praise to all that has been so nobly won by Miss Nightingale, that I here make mention of her name. I bring it before you simply to show, how, gifted by Nature, she yet worked at and practised a vocation, which she chose from love. Years before she was known to the public she was studying the art of nursing among the sick poor; she then left her home to practise it in the Institution for Sick Ladies in King William Street; and I am sure she would acknowledge, that, in spite of her love for the occupation, she would have been unfit for the labours she at last imposed upon herself, had she not learnt its details by hard experience. It is not to be supposed, that, by anything taught here in words, a woman can become a good and able nurse; but perhaps, having her eyes opened to what is necessary, she will learn much more quickly than by experience alone, how to make herself useful in the sick-room. A nurse has to undertake many disagreeable, many hard tasks. I shall not attempt to disguise them from you. The duties of the sick-room are not pleasant, unless the knowledge, that you are useful, that you are diminishing the sufferings and adding to the comforts of your patient, support you, and give a pleasure even to the most disagreeable part of the occupation. In speak-

ing of the work a nurse has to do, it is then impossible to gild or slur over the unpleasantnesses of those things kept usually hidden. I must talk to you as a medical man would to an uninstructed nurse, who may not, if he would be well aided in his duty, omit to mention any, even the lowest and most servile tasks.

Rapid disease, of which I am now speaking, may, and generally does, alter more or less, and in different ways, the condition of the patient's mind; and it is well that the nurse should be aware of this, that she may regulate her conduct accordingly. One patient will be calm under great suffering, desirous of giving as little trouble as possible; and here your kindness will be taxed to find out, and do even before it is asked of you, anything that may make him more at ease. Another will be heavy, almost unconscious; and then you will have to watch, and so use your quickness of perception, that nothing, of the want of which the invalid is scarce aware, but which is really required, may be omitted. A third person may be rendered extremely fretful and irritable, constantly desiring something new, or different, and never pleased, continually complaining querulously of inattention, awkwardness, etc. Such a patient is to be looked on as a good test of a nurse's temper; more particularly, if the complaints are, as often hap-

pens, groundless and unreasonable. It will help all persons having to do with such a patient, to keep their tempers, if they will consider his fretfulness as a part of the disease, to be nursed, to be pitied, but never resented. A fourth invalid may be delirious, though not violent when properly managed : your courage and firmness must be unbending, your mind active, your hand steady and unshaken.

The bodily conditions of disease also change. At first there may be violent fever, when the greatest care and quiet are necessary, and when your arrangements in the sick-room may make a great difference in the chances of life and death. By-and-by, if the fever abate, there may come a time of great weakness and depression, when the management of food and drink, with other matters to be spoken of, become of the utmost importance. There may be a state in which the bodily conditions are constantly fluctuating between these two, and when the judgment of the nurse will be severely tried. Thus, you see, different cases will require different modes of nursing, which the directions of the doctor will in general, and certainly ought to, point out. But in speaking of the subject broadly and as a whole, I shall be able to make myself more easily understood by supposing a certain case, and giving directions as to the mode of doing what is necessary in its various circumstances.

Fever is a disease, which runs through different stages, and all of them depend in part for cure upon good nursing; and as such a case gives ample room for mentioning some of those differences spoken of above, we will suppose at once, that I am going to give directions to a woman about, for the first time in her life, to nurse a fever-patient.

Let me however first observe, that the particular poison, which produces this disease, appears to affect young persons more readily, than those, who are approaching middle-life, and that therefore the nurse for such a case should not be very young. Remember also, that when the poison of fever, like every other poison, is mixed with a certain amount of fresh air, it becomes more and more harmless; but in a close place, or unventilated room, this poison gathers strength, and spreads the disease. The room therefore of such a patient should be, if possible, large, and, unless the weather be very hot, it should have a fire, which will act as a ventilator, causing a draught from the room into the chimney. At all events, even if there be not a fire, the chimney-board should not be placed before the opening. The air should be constantly changed, by having a door, or a window, or both, according to the weather, always open; the bed-curtains should be taken down, or

only that one, which shades the patient's eyes from the light, should remain; carpets should be removed; in fact, all unnecessary woollen cloth or linen furniture must be carried away, because they not only prevent free currents of air, but are apt to hold, and then spread, the poison. No unnecessary visits should be paid or allowed by relations and friends; and those, who only occasionally enter the sick-room, should never do so fasting, for an empty stomach makes one more liable to take disease. Great diligence will be necessary to keep the patient clean, and therefore the bed must not stand with a side to the wall; the nurse should be able to pass freely on both sides: indeed much trouble is saved by allowing free passage all round the bed. All soiled linen should be immediately put into water, and taken out of the room; all discharges from the patient's body must be at once carried away. These are matters, which a practised and careful medical man will order, partly for his patient's sake, partly for that of the family, and partly for that of the nurse; for he looks upon the nurse as a staff-officer, whose duty it is to carry out fully all his directions, not in the letter only, but in the spirit; and when he has found a good nurse, the good doctor takes care of her. He will also probably order that chloride of lime or Burnett's Disinfecting Fluid be used; but these are

not to supply the place of perfect cleanliness and ventilation, but only to assist them. So surely as too much faith is put in these disinfectants, so soon as they be thought to render the greatest care in cleanliness and fresh air unnecessary, so surely and so soon will harm follow.

And now I must confess, that I have only trifles to tell you about; mere trifles make up the life of man, or may produce his death, and a string of mere trifles may render your patient comfortable and aid his recovery, or may cause his discomfort, prolong his sickness, or cause it to be fatal.

During the first week of fever, the patient is not insensible, but heavy and indifferent; delirium does not usually come on till quite the end of this period. The patient lies on his back,—recollect this; the position of sufferers from different diseases is important. In fever, then, the patient lies on his back without moving, snatching short moments of uneasy sleep; and sometimes, even at this early part of the disease, the weakness, or the stupor and indifference, is such, that everything is passed under him as he lies. It is in great measure, for this reason, that cleanliness is so necessary; for on the lower part of the back, sores are apt to arise caused by the pressure of his own weight on the bed, and therefore called “bed-sores;” he will not, perhaps, feel them, and even if he do, will most

likely not complain; but when he is getting better, they will tend to diminish his chances of life, they will cause great suffering, and are to be avoided as much as possible, by cleanliness. A practised and observant nurse will often see, by certain uneasy movements of the body, when this unmarked passage is about to happen, and will have a bed-pan ready. Take care, in using this instrument, to warm it first with a little hot water, and to place it beneath the patient without violently rubbing it against the skin. First press down the bed well about the loins, so as to make a hollow passage; place the hand (left or right, according to the side of the bed you stand on—that namely, which is nearest to the head) beneath the loins; lift him a little, and push in the pan between the bed and your hand, so as to press it against your own limb, and not against your patient. Before removing your hand, ascertain that all is well arranged. In withdrawing the bedpan, do not drag it away by main force, but lift the patient gently again.

Besides this, I should recommend a contrivance, known to nurses under the name of “draw-sheet.” This is simply a sheet folded so as to be broad enough to reach from the loins to mid-thigh, laid smoothly over the bottom sheet, and which can be removed without the necessity of shifting all the linen. When it is desirable to change this, two

persons should be employed. The clean linen had better be tacked to one end of that to be removed, and while one nurse lifts the patient a little from the bed, the other draws the free end of the soiled draw-sheet away, and by that very action pulls the clean one into its place. Strict personal cleanliness must at the same time be observed.

Let me here say a few words upon the way in which the hand should be placed upon a patient, particularly if it is intended to bear any weight. Never grasp him, or support any part of the body with the tips of your fingers; but with the whole breadth of your hand laid smoothly on the skin. If you use the finger-ends for holding any weight, they will press and dig into the patient's flesh, causing him great discomfort, particularly if the part be at all inflamed; but if your whole hand, with the fingers a little spread out, divide the weight over its surface, no discomfort, or as little as possible, is produced. These latter remarks apply not merely, nor indeed chiefly, to persons in fever; an inflamed limb, a broken or bruised leg, must all be handled in this way, or much pain will be caused.

The bedclothes of a fever-patient must very frequently be changed; more frequently, than in most other diseases. It may appear very absurd for me to tell you how to manage so common a thing as changing bed-linen; but I have often seen patients

lying uncovered and shivering, then hoisted about during a badly arranged shifting of bed-linen, and thus have been led to think a little on the matter, believing, that nothing, which can render a sick person more comfortable, is beneath consideration. The following plan will be easiest and least fatiguing for the patient; but two persons must be employed in its performance. The sufferer must be got on one edge of the bed, if strong enough to lie on his side, by simply aiding him to turn on it; if not, by gentle lifting. The lower sheet, which is to be removed, is to be rolled from that side of the bed on which he is not lying, close to his body, into a long roll extending from the top to the bottom of the bed. The blanket, and other bed-furniture, beneath that sheet and which are now uncovered, can be shaken and smoothed. One side of the clean sheet must be rolled up nearly to its half, where there is a seam, and the roll is to be laid close to the folded part of the soiled sheet, the two rolls lying side by side making a ridge near the middle of the bed. When the patient has sufficiently rested, he can be lifted over this ridge, and placed upon the newly arranged sheet; the other may be removed, the clean one unrolled and laid smoothly. Thus you will very readily perceive, that the under-sheet may be changed without exposing the patient to cold, and without causing him

any great amount of fatigue. To change the upper sheet without uncovering the sick person is easier. The clothes must all be loosened from the sides and foot of the bed; each nurse standing opposite her companion near the foot can take hold of the upper corner of the clean sheet in one hand,* while with the other she can hold the lower corner of the used linen. By pulling the clean sheet upwards, from the foot of the bed towards its head under the soiled sheet and over the patient, while the used linen is held in its place, the change can be made without any difficulty. It is scarcely necessary, that I should tell you, that the fresh linen ought to be slightly warmed, nor perhaps, that it is often unadvisable to do all this shifting at once, for fear of fatiguing the patient, but to change one sheet one day, another the next.

Even in such a common and easy task as washing a patient, there are wrong ways and right ways. Although in certain diseases it may be desirable, that the surface should be pretty frequently sponged, yet nothing could be more injurious, than over-fatiguing the sufferer by attempting too much, terrifying him by roughness or awkwardness, or causing him to catch cold by carelessness. In general this washing should be done bit by bit; and the weaker the patient, the less at a time. Let first an arm,

* That which is nearer to the head of the bed.

and after some time the other be sponged, and that may be enough for the day ; on the next, one leg after another ; on another day the chest and front of the body ; on a fourth, the back, while the patient is lying on the side ; even if he be too weak to keep himself in this position, one nurse must support him on the side, while the other washes the back ; for it is very important that this should be done, as much for cleanliness sake, as for the prevention of bed-sores. Sometimes the patient's skin is very tender and irritable ; the sponge ought not to be rubbed backwards and forwards upon it, but should be passed only in one direction, and that downwards. The sensation of upward and downward rubbing is very different, the one irritating, the other soothing ; also in wiping the surface dry again, care must be taken not to hurt the skin by hard or careless rubbing. I told you that I should speak of trifles ; I have known these little things make all the difference between a delicate patient liking the nurse, or hardly bearing her hand to approach. You will of course take care in washing a patient, to keep the bedclothes dry, by putting a towel or some waterproof material, under the part being sponged.

I have spoken of bed-sores, describing them as caused by the lasting pressure of one part of the body upon the bed. A patient who has been long

ill becomes very thin, falls into that state, when the bones look sharp and hard through the skin, stretched tightly over them like parchment. At the lower part of the back, the spine-bones project considerably, and bear a goodly portion of the body's weight; the skin over them begins after a time to get red, the patient complains perhaps of pain, and if care be not taken, these red spots will break out into sores, and cause very considerable discomfort and pain. It is often recommended, that these places should be washed with brandy and water, brandy and salt, etc.; and these washes may perhaps be of some assistance in hardening the skin; but, if the pressure on the part be continued, the sores will surely break forth, therefore the only mode of preventing them is to cause the weight of the body to fall elsewhere.

A linen bag, about half a yard square, should be stuffed rather full of horsehair, and then, by pressing the fingers from each side into the middle and rubbing the linen together round and round, the horsehair can be driven into the edges; thus will be left a place in the middle of the cushion free from stuffing. Where the two sides of the bag touch they may be sewn together, and the linen in the centre cut away; thus will be made a square pillow, with a hole in the middle. The patient must be so placed upon this cushion, that the sore

or inflamed part of the back lies over the hole therein, and that the pressure, instead of being on that spot, falls on the back all round it. By these means, and by attention to cleanliness, one may prevent the formation of the sore, or, if it be already formed, its healing may be procured. It should be said, that bed-sores are usually to be dressed with lint, and some stimulating form of ointment, kept on by two cross strips of plaister.

Your ingenuity should be able to adapt this sort of pillow to several other valuable uses. A lady, whom I attended some time ago, had an illness, obliging her to keep her bed a very long time, and to lie very constantly on the side. The right ear became sore from the pressure, and caused her intense pain; one of these little pillows gave great relief. Many such instances might be given; but, as fresh uses for such cushions will often occur, it is not worth while relating them. I will therefore only remind you, that the horsehair is apt, from use, to get squeezed together, so that the pillow becomes hard and thin; and that it will be necessary therefore to have several such cushions, and to re-make them pretty frequently. Most manufacturers of waterproofs and India-rubber wares sell circular air or water-cushions for this purpose of relieving pressure; they are, of course, more expensive than those just described, but do not require

remaking. Those, which are intended to be filled with water, are the best, but most patients complain of both kinds, that they are too unsteady. I mean, that if a person, lying on such a cushion, throw his weight at all more upon one side thereof than on the other, the water or air rushes from that side, and the patient is tipped over much more than he intended. Thus he has to be careful and timid in his movements, like a person on shipboard, who has not yet found his sea-legs.

India-rubber has been successfully employed for a great many conveniences in the sick-room. The water-bed is one of the most useful of these, especially in cases, where the patient is very thin and weak, and where the pressure of an ordinary bed produces much uneasiness. Lately, too, has been made (by Mr. Hooper, of Grosvenor Street) a set of water-mattresses, of different sizes, covering half, three-quarters, or all the bed; by which means the great pressure on any part can be in a measure relieved. These are of course expensive to purchase, but can now be hired; and I mention them here to warn you, in case you have to deal with such beds, against allowing them to become damp. The perspiration, which in health or disease is always passing from the skin, finds in an ordinary bed means of evaporation; but these mattresses or beds are of course waterproof, and the perspiration gathers

upon their surface, and on the blanket immediately covering it. Thus, with all these contrivances two sheets of waterproofing, to lie over the bed, should be sent. Upon this are to be placed the under-blankets, etc.; and in two or three days all these, namely, the under bedclothing and the waterproof sheet, will be found wet, and must be changed. This is by no means an easy task, and is a great drawback on the value of such beds. Perhaps it is best to put two or more blankets between the bed and the waterproof sheet, then a blanket and the under-sheet over this; for thus there will be less to change, as those under the India-rubber sheeting remain dry. The expense of all these contrivances will prevent their coming into general use; they have many very great advantages, and it is well that this disadvantage should be known to you.

When the patient wants drink, it is necessary that, under ordinary circumstances, the head should be lifted; it is unavoidable, even with that contrivance called a "boat." This, you know, is an earthenware jar or mug with a straight spout, which is put into the patient's mouth, so that the fluid may be poured in, without danger of spilling it about the body or bed-clothes; yet, with this even it is necessary, I say, that the head should be lifted. The nurse carefully slides down her hand, between the pillow and the head, as far as the ear,

where the weight can be supported; but, if the patient be a woman with a frilled nightcap, this is rather a difficult matter. If she be without a cap, as from headache frequently happens, but with long loose hair lying abroad and somewhat tangled on the pillow, this lifting the head can scarcely be done without catching the hand in loops and meshes of the hair, pulling it, and so giving the patient much unnecessary pain. Let me recommend, that you should make for your patient a small pillow, only large enough to let the head lie comfortably upon it, and that when the head is to be raised, you should slide your hand beneath this little cushion, and so lift the head and the pillow altogether. A couple of cushions of this sort are often very useful in another way, for when the patient is feverish with a hot aching head, a cool pillow will often be a great comfort. That is merely an observation by the way; let us return to the subject of aiding patients to drink in the easiest way. Some years ago I was much troubled on observing how painful to a very sick lady, even with the help of one of those cushions, was such constant lifting of the head. She, poor thing, required very frequently to drink, was very weak, and the difficulty of having her head comfortably raised was a source of great trouble. I procured a glass tube, about as thick and rather longer than a pen-

cil, and bent it at about a right angle, near the middle. With this she could, while lying down, suck any fluid out of a tumbler, without the slightest exertion; and I would strongly recommend this plan to you in similar cases.

In the first stage of fever, however, when the patient, without being unconscious, is quite indifferent, this contrivance is useless, and you will be obliged every half-hour or so to give some sort of fluid with a spoon; he will not ask for anything, nor will he perhaps drink, unless the liquid be actually put into the mouth, when you will see, by a peculiar glance of the eye and a movement of the lip, that it is grateful to him. When, on the contrary, you find that, on again touching the lip with the spoon, he keeps the mouth closed, or turns his head away, you may conclude that the fluid itself is unpleasant to him, or that he has had enough. The first few drops of the liquid must, I say, be put into the mouth before the patient's attention can be attracted thereto; and this may be done by gently drawing down the lower lip with the forefinger sufficiently to allow the end of the bowl to pass.

When the first few days, from five to ten, are over, there commences, unless the case be very slight, an increase and alteration in all the symptoms. The patient becomes even more indifferent;

the senses begin to be blunted, so that he seems deaf, or is actually so ; in certain of the worst cases there is really or apparently partial blindness. The common sensation of the skin is so far deadened, that he will allow flies to crawl over the face, even over the lips, without appearing aware of their presence. At this time, also, delirium usually sets in ; not a furious raving, but a low muttering, and a wandering of the mind into other places and to bygone times. Under these circumstances, you will find it necessary to increase your watchfulness ; the patient depends, for nourishment, cleanliness, medicine, in fact for life itself, upon the nurse's conscientious care.

In other cases, and often later in fever, the senses will appear quickened, more irritable than natural, the delirium is more active ; a very small amount of light will even hurt the eyes, and all sound is distressing. You will perceive at once, that in a chamber, where lies a patient affected with this form of illness, the utmost quiet is necessary. It is however extraordinary how many persons, unused to the sick-room, mistake certain noises for quiet. When such people have to walk across a room, they do so with a balancing sort of movement, that makes every plank creak uneasily. Their very dress rustles in a way, that would make the fortune of a rattlesnake. If anything has to be said,

it is spoken in a loud whirring whisper, that nearly conceals the words, but makes the most irritating of noises. Now, the silence of a sick-room must not be laboured, it must be natural. Shoes, which do not creak, must be worn, and in walking the foot must be put down, carefully of course, but with a firm step, that comes gently, yet steadily on the floor. This will not make the creaking sound caused by the toe-pointed, gingerly mode of moving, so much adopted by those, whose experience of sick-room frailties is small. The dress must be made of some noiseless material, wool or cotton, silk must be avoided, for it squeaks and rustles with every movement. In speaking the pitch of the voice must be slightly raised, and the words, instead of being hissed, as in whispering, should be clipped short, and cut distinctly. By this means the person spoken to will hear what is said, while the least possible sound accompanies the words. In order that you may nurse your patient the more easily with silence, the table on which your necessary spoons, etc. are placed should be covered with a thick cloth, or rather towel, several times folded, so that such utensils may be lifted up or put down again without rattling. The spoons should all be laid with the hollow part downward, that they may not rock backward and forward, and jingle together.

I suppose all medical men, when they first enter the sick-room, cast round them a rapid look, that embraces all the arrangements, all the good and mis-deeds of the nurse. One can see at once whether such a person is used to nursing, and to paying real attention to her patient; or we can tell by the position of an easy chair, or by other signs, whether she may not be thinking too much of her own comforts. Again, whether, though used to nursing and kindly in her intentions, she be not of a bluntness of brain, that renders all her experience vain. Thus, for example, when quiet has been most strictly ordered, such a nurse, with every desire to obey, will arrange everything for the night; then perhaps, in order to time the medicines, she will put her watch on the table, where it ticks loudly all night, each stroke beating on the sufferer's brain like the blows of a sledge-hammer; while every woman of common perception knows, that if she hangs up the watch the patient does not hear it. Such mistakes, I assure you, occur again and again, but are to my mind almost unpardonable.

I told you, that patients in the indifferent state will allow flies to crawl about the face; but when the time of quickened sensation comes, these animals are intensely troublesome, often waking him from sleep with a most painful start, or keeping him in a state of injurious irritability. A piece of

net laid over the face will, of course, keep them away; but you will be careful first to drive them off, for if you catch one of the flies inside, the plague will be worse than ever. By tying strings across the bed, in convenient positions, you may support the gauze away from the patient's face.

I see, that I am detaining you somewhat beyond the hour, but I must beg leave to say a few words on the next stage before concluding. The third period of fever will show little but extreme weakness, against which we must now struggle. The cooking talents of the nurse must be exercised; also her patience and perseverance in giving food every half-hour, or so, as long as the patient is awake. Of this cooking business we shall have to speak in our next, as well as of the sort of food necessary in different conditions of illness.

All possible contrivances must now be employed to save the patient's strength; pillows of different forms and sizes should be made, to prop the body in any posture, most comfortable at the time to the worn frame. If your attention and perseverance have overcome the tendency to bed-sores, it is now that you will see cause to congratulate yourself. Such a wound would certainly cause great pain to the patient, and much trouble to the nurse; indeed, it may at this particular time press very heavily on the side of death, and make the life-

scale kick the beam. Strength will be much saved by the use of the bent glass-tube in drinking; all fluids, broths, medicines, etc. may be taken with this, and therefore several may be provided. When solid food is allowed, it may be minced, and taken with a spoon; and generally the patient should be fed. All means, too, should be taken to amuse the sufferer; and it is astonishing to see how easily a person recovering from a severe disease can be amused. The brain is so easily tired that the slightest matter is enough to occupy, and then fatigue. The man, who works constantly twelve hours out of the twenty-four on the hardest and most brain-wearing employments, will find, after a fortnight of illness, that the trying to recollect a nursery rhyme is too fatiguing to his mind. But when little by little departs that sense of utter weariness, that desire for rest, ever for rest, even in the grave, then comes the delightful sense of health returning.

The blood no longer burns in the veins, but runs coolly, deliciously, through the frame. The hand has left off glowing like a coal, but is moist and light; he lifts it, and wonders, that he can almost see through it, so delicate, and white, and weak, it is. Then by-and-by the appetite—that enormous gulf for food, that seems to be within him—is in itself a pleasure. In fact, the feelings

of recovery are wondrous pleasant; and when a kind-hearted woman sees them, she is thankful to have aided in bringing those days about. The happiest face, I think, I ever saw, the heart most filled with gratitude and joy, was once, when a young wife had nursed her husband through a fever, and was first assured of his safety. May you never have occasion for such a nursing!—if you have, may your reward be as great!

LECTURE VII.

POULTICES.—VARIOUS KINDS.—HOW MADE.—APPLIED.—WHEN DIFFERENT SORTS ARE SUITABLE. — SPONGEO-PILEINE. — MUSTARD POULTICE. — THE DIETARY PART OF NURSING.— ADAPTING FOOD TO CONDITION.—DISTINCTION BETWEEN DIFFERENT BODILY CONDITIONS.—DISTINCTION IN ARTICLES OF FOOD.—BOTH THESE CLASSIFIED.

My task is now nearly done; for this Lecture must conclude what I have to say to you upon the subject of nursing, or management of sickness. You will have seen, that my object has not been to present to you a high-sounding dictionary of diseases, with a classified cabinet of cures, but rather to make you acquainted with those duties, which every woman may have to perform at the sick-bed of relation, friend, or even stranger. My wish has been to render these as simple, and as easily understood, as possible; to speak of them as plainly and practically, as they must be performed. I have tried also, by avoiding all mystery, to show you how far the province of the nurse extends, and where it ceases; to point out the boundary, over which she cannot venture, without danger to life

or limb. In considering the different ailments and little accidents in which she may be helpful, it has been impossible to avoid a certain amount of disconnectedness. But in order to render the small facts more easily remembered, I have caught at any link, which might serve to connect them, without considering whether such connection have been scientific or no; as a traveller, wishing to carry his valuables about him, might tie them together with the commonest cord.

We must all feel, however, that the subject would be incomplete, unless I said a few words upon the method of making certain applications, such as poultices, etc. And this incompleteness would be still more evident, unless some directions were given, as to the cookery, necessary for the sick.

POULTICES.

Nothing can be much more simple than the making of poultices; and yet they are more frequently badly made, than well, although they are so constantly used as to render it of some little importance, that they should be always good. They are of many different sorts; bread and water, bread and milk, linseed meal, half linseed, half bread, etc. etc. As to our first consideration, the quantity of bread or meal, that is to be mixed with a certain amount of water, I can give you no certain rules. A poul-

tice should be more or less wet, more or less dry, according to the circumstances of the case, in which it has to be used. If it be intended to go upon the inflamed but unwounded skin, it should be rather more wet, than when it is to lie upon a discharging wound. The discharge keeps the poultice moist, whereas the heat from the unbroken skin tends to dry it. Again, a poultice may be ordered to lie upon some tender part, and it will cause an amount of pressure thereon, as may happen where a joint, or some part of the hollow of the belly, be inflamed. Under these circumstances it will be necessary, so that the pressure may be as slight as possible, that the poultice be light; therefore it must be spread thin. A thin poultice will of course dry more quickly than a thick one, and therefore you will make it the more moist.

All poultices made of bread or linseed meal, and of water alone, should be boiled. First determine the size of the poultice, then pour into a small saucepan the quantity of water necessary for that size, and before it quite boils, crumble slowly into it some two-days-old bread. During this time you must frequently stir the bread and water together, and occasionally take off the saucepan, to mash up the contents with a spoon. If you find the poultice is large enough, but still too moist, you can squeeze out some of the water and pour it away ;

or if, on the other hand, it be too dry, you can add a little water ; a few drops at a time, stirring and mixing it well up with a spoon. If you have a bread-grater or bread-rasp at hand, you will improve the smoothness of the poultice by grating the bread, instead of crumbling it with the fingers.

A linseed-meal poultice is made in the same way. The meal must be strewn by the hand into the water, not plunged in by spoonfuls : thus you will get it smooth and even ; but by throwing in quantities at a time, it will be knotty, and unevenly mixed.

In buying linseed-meal, you can try its quality by pinching up a little, and rubbing it on the back of the hand ; if it feel smooth, it is good ; if, on the contrary, it be gritty, there is sand in it. Another and surer way—but then you must have bought it—is to sprinkle a little on a glass of cold water ; if in a short time it all float, it is good ; any sand, that is in it, will sink to the bottom.

The poultice should be spread on a piece of rag rather bigger than the part to be treated. It is not to be spread over the whole rag, but must leave a clear margin all round, which is to be turned up over the bread or linseed-meal, keeping it in its place, and not allowing it to be squeezed out so as to soil the dress or bed-clothes. In applying the poultice, take care that it is not too hot ; remember

that a wound, or inflamed skin, will feel the heat more, than your own healthy finger. Do not slap it on suddenly and rudely ; but beginning at one edge, lay it gradually and gently down. It may be kept on by a handkerchief or a bandage, according to the form of the part where it is applied ; the bandage is the safer and the neater means.

Linseed-meal is generally used for old wounds, for inflammations of the unbroken skin, and for abscesses, both before and after opening, when they occur about the body. Bread is used for fresher wounds, which are nevertheless discharging, or about to discharge, and in nearly all cases where a poultice is to be applied to the head or face, more particularly to the eyes.

A short time ago, carrots, yeast, and other matters were frequently used as poultices; but they have been driven out of fashion, or nearly so, by a plan of making up bread and linseed-meal with certain lotions. A new material however, namely powdered charcoal, has been used of late, with much benefit, to old wounds which are spreading, dark in colour, or which have a very offensive smell. It is scarcely advisable to give you directions as to the making of these lotions, nor as to the particular sort of wound, in which one or the other of them would be advantageous, since it requires practice, much more than precept, to distinguish them ; but

I may tell you how to make up this new form of poultice, and how to manage with any lotions that may be ordered.

The charcoal poultice is not to be boiled; but you will first pour upon the powder a very little hot water, and knead it into a thick paste, perfectly smooth and even; then the rest of the water can be added by degrees.

When you are directed to use a lotion instead of water, it must not be boiled, but may be heated by putting the necessary quantity into a mug or jar, which must be covered pretty closely, and placed in a saucepan of boiling water. When the liquid is hot enough, it is to be mixed with the bread or linseed-meal, gradually and smoothly, as already described.

An artificial poultice, the spongeo-pileine, is very useful in treating persons who are still walking about, following their usual business. More particularly is it of service, when the part to be treated is at the bend of a limb, or other place subject to much movement and friction. It may be bought at any respectable druggist's, at a certain price per foot, according to its thickness. The outer side is smooth, and made of a waterproof material; the inner side has a woolly, irregular surface, and is made of some sort of hair, mixed with little bits of sponge. To use this, cut off a piece, of the required

size, put it in hot water, squeezing and letting it fill again, as one does a sponge, till it is completely soaked ; then squeeze it to the proper amount of dryness. As the waterproof side will be equal in size to the woolly side, some of the water will during its use be pressed out of the edge, and will wet the clothes. The whole poultice therefore, when placed upon the skin, should be covered with a piece of oil-skin, or with a cheaper material—gutta-percha sheeting. This spongeo-pileine is rather too drawing for a painful wound or highly inflamed skin, and therefore it is advisable to put between it and the part a piece of wet lint. When spongeo-pileine is employed, two pieces should be kept, and each used alternately. When one is removed it must be well washed by squeezing it out again and again in hot water ; then it should be left in clean water till it is wanted, and then must be again rinsed in fresh water. Even with all these precautions, the same piece must not be used very often ; the length of time, during which it is applied, the nature and amount of discharge from the wound, must decide how frequently the same piece can be employed. The spongeo-pileine is a more expensive poultice than bread or linseed-meal but during daily work it can be kept on more easily, it takes up less room beneath the clothes, and is more cleanly.

MUSTARD POULTICES.

The mustard poultice is different in purpose to the above soothing remedies. It is intended to cause some amount of irritation on the skin, and thereby to counteract pain or deeply-seated inflammation. Hence it is called a counter-irritant. This remedy is often used by mothers for their children in a very indiscriminate manner, and it may be as well to warn you against certain bodily conditions in which they are not advisable. The chief of these are feverishness, and a certain nervous irritability. Thus it will be undesirable for you to use one, on your own responsibility, when the skin is hot and dry, and when the person is in a more restless and irritable state, than can be accounted for merely by the pain. When the poultice is to be applied to the chest or throat, on account of irritation about the air-passages, great care must be taken to cover it with some rather thick material; because the smell and pungency of mustard, drawn into the wind-pipe, will cause more irritation there, than the poultice can remove.

In preparing this poultice, do not boil the mustard; strew the powder into some hot water in a basin, stirring and mixing it well with a spoon, until it is considerably thicker than the mustard used for eating,—until, in fact, it is a rather soft

paste. The poultice may be made of mustard alone, or of mustard mixed with flour or crumbled bread; the proportions of each to be regulated by the biting or stinging power required. It may be mixed simply with water or with vinegar (the latter is the strongest preparation), or with both mixed. Cayenne or other pepper should under no circumstances be added, for reasons you will presently see. I need hardly say that the milder preparations are used for children, the stronger for men with sluggish skins. Fair people have usually more irritable skins than dark. Mustard poultices are to be spread thin, as they are only kept on a short time; an eighth, or what is the same thing, half a quarter of an inch, is quite thick enough. It may be spread either on rag or brown paper: the paper is better when the part on which it is to lie is tolerably flat, as, for instance, the chest or stomach; but if it be round, as the knee or shoulder, brown paper will not bend and lie closely to the form: rag therefore should be used.

This poultice, like all such applications, must be applied with a gentle hand, carefully and tenderly pressed on the skin until it touches in all parts. Let me however strongly advise you to place between the mustard and the skin a piece of coarse muslin. When the surface has been irritated by the poultice, washing away any of it, which adheres, causes

a good deal of pain. The muslin prevents the mustard sticking to the flesh, and makes it come away entirely, so that the inflamed surface need only be lightly sponged with warm water. You will now see why you were cautioned against using Cayenne or other pepper, for the small grains of it are apt to get through the muslin, to remain on the skin, and to cause pain, perhaps even small sores.

THE DIET OF THE SICK.

We now come to the cooking duties of a nurse, which part of her work is by no means the least important. Invalid cookery is not in general such as to tempt even a hungry man, and is often of a sort to disgust a squeamish one. How greatly does it add to the comfort of a sick-room if the nurse knows how to make such dishes as are suited to the taste of an individual ; and how greatly to its safety, if she have some knowledge of various bodily states, in which different sorts of food may be given ! The art of feeding a person in the manner best adapted to his condition at the time,—the art of dietetics, as it is called,—depends in great measure upon making a proper distinction, between two opposite states of the system, between fever and weakness, and adapting the food to each. The fever here spoken of is not that one, which we mentioned so

often in the last Lecture. The word is commonly used to designate so many different states of system, that some little definition of what I here intend to express by it, becomes necessary.

In its broadest sense, Fever means the resentment of the constitution against the attack of a disease. Whether the malady be mechanical, as from severe injury, or whether it be from actual disease, as smallpox, the system feels its first invasion, and rises up against it with violence and excitement; the strength of the body is as yet unimpaired, and the action bears with it the stamp of power. If the injury be mechanical, as a badly broken leg or ankle, there arises, within twelve hours of the accident, this fever in its purest form. If the cause be a morbid poison, as cholera, smallpox, or scarlatina, the simple action of the system is altered and complicated by the special action of the poison itself; and thus the different types and varying symptoms of fevers are produced. In certain cases, as typhus, the bodily strength is very soon muffled and oppressed by the overmastering force of the disease; and such a fever is apt to pass over at once, or with slight transition, into a great state of weakness or exhaustion. Exhaustion is always produced, when the bodily strength is quite overcome by the accident or disease, either at once or after a short time.

Between these two opposed states of system, there are stages, which occur when a lengthened struggle has gone on between the powers of health and of disease, which struggle is keeping down the patient's strength, flushing his cheek and brightening his eye. The appearances will vary as the strength or the disease get the upper hand, but the unmistakable signs called hectic will be always present.

Be it then understood, that the word Fever, when used alone, is here intended to designate that strong action, which sets the pulse throbbing and the head aching. It is totally distinct on the one hand from the oppressed or exhausted stage of typhus, and on the other from that fluttering, fretful yielding to a disease, which produces hectic. The strong fever has its origin in the violent resistance of a body capable of trying its strength against that of a disease. Exhaustion is the sudden rout and destruction of the bodily powers: Hectic, the irritable after-skirmishing of scattered, but not yet beaten forces.

In classifying the conditions of body, according to the amount of fever and debility, we may, of course, advantageously take, as the opposite extremes of our divisions, those states of system, which mark, one the greatest amount of strong fever, and the other the greatest amount of weakness without fever, or complete exhaustion. If

these two be taken as the poles, we may divide all between them into a certain number of conditions, distinguished from each other by the relative proportions of the weakness and of the fever. To do this, we will not examine the amount of actual fever (a very difficult task), but will rather produce the desirable proportions by allowing the strength to decrease, and thus we will make the proper number of distinctions. It must be however observed, that between the various conditions there are no sharp divisions, like the boundary of a parish; but they slope gradually and gently into one another, as meadow-land slants downward to the river, and becomes morass, without our being able to fix upon a line where the pasture ceases, or where the marsh begins. Thus the *strong fever*, by its very power, tends to exhaust, and may gradually lead to the various stages of *hectic fever*. If the disease still continue, the patient may get during some part of the twenty-four hours, chiefly at night, into a weak irritable excitement of the whole system. This enfeebles every time it attacks; for the body is not strong enough either to support or control it; and the morning finds the patient wet with perspiration, weary with sleeplessness, and weaker than on the night before. If however, by power of constitution, judicious medicine, and careful diet, the strength, in spite of these attacks

increase, it will gradually control the fever ; shows itself, indeed, chiefly by its power of such control, until it learns to subdue the false action altogether, and to lead back again to health. You will, indeed, hardly see all these changes in one patient ; but by observing the course of events in a great many, such a general outline as given above may be pretty accurately fixed upon.

Now the management of food consists in regulating the amount of nourishment by the strength of the patient, and the quantity of stimulus by the quantity of excitement. Let me explain this more fully. Some forms of food contain less nourishment in a certain bulk than others, and more especially less stimulating and exciting qualities, and these are at the same time more easily digested by an enfeebled stomach. Such foods, for instance, are arrowroot and sago in comparison to eggs and fish, and these again in comparison to the meat of fowls, and these to brown meats, and so on. Then among drinks, water, with fruit juices, are less exciting than milk, and milk less so than malt liquor, etc.

From this groundwork we may construct a table, one side of which shall contain our divisions of the bodily states, the other the same number of divisions of different sorts of food adapted to each.

BODILY CONDITIONS.

FOOD ADAPTED TO THE CONDITIONS.

1. Strong fever* Breadstuffs, made with water; fruit drinks, and soda-water.
2. Fever, with weakness Breadstuffs, with milk; jellies, without wine; occasionally an egg; weak white broths. *Drinks*.—Milk and water; milk and soda-water.
3. More weakness, with hectic fever† . Breadstuffs, with milk, and made into puddings. jellies, eggs, fish, white meat, and weak brown meat broths. *Drinks*.—Soda-water, with milk; perhaps wine whey, etc.
4. Great weakness, with hectic fever . Strong broths; fish, eggs, wine, jellies; meat jellies; meat, minced; egg puddings. *Drinks*.—Eggs, with milk, wine, etc.; white broths; wine and water, etc.
5. Exhaustion Strongest broths; essence of meat, with or without wine; strong meat jellies; eggs, with wine or brandy; meat, minced, etc. etc.

* Heaviness, headache, full, quick pulse, loss of appetite, coated tongue, hot, dry skin, etc.

† Weak, quick, small pulse; white tongue; hot skin, with night sweating; irregular chills, and flushes of heat, etc.

This is the broad characteristic plan of a diet-system, which I would offer to you ; let me however once more observe, that no sharp line or boundary exists ; also, that in the weak states of fever, it will often be advisable to make more variety in the food by mingling two classes of diet. It has been said, that the irritable excitement of a hectic-like fever comes on at night ; the less exciting form of food should therefore be given in the evening, the more nourishing material in the morning, that as much strength as possible may be gained, with the least possible chance of exciting the night fever. In order to assist you further in dieting the sick, I will leave with you this bundle of receipts, arranged under the heads of the above table. You may copy and use them on occasion ; they have been kindly furnished me by a lady, who assures me, that all are practical, and tolerably easy. Although she has endeavoured to collect as cheap a set as possible, yet there are some among them of an expensive sort ; some, for instance, containing wine, etc. ; for it was considered, that poor people may, with some assistance, procure the materials necessary, and that it would be hard to cut them off from the receipts.

QUACKERY.

Lastly, before taking leave of you, I will beg you to look back to the general subject and tendency of these discourses. You will, in doing so, hardly fail to see, that besides the mere general truth of illness, and of the kindly desire to aid, there is also insisted on a necessity of adapting the one to the other, namely, the sort of help to the species of disease. Let me call your attention to a few instances; to the different positions, in which a person, suddenly attacked with insensibility is to be placed, according as the cause is a want or an excess of blood in the brain; to the distinction, I pointed out between a nervous pain, and a pain produced by inflammation; and you will remember, that I said hot, dry heat was applicable in the one case, but not in the other. Lastly, think of the broad, but still careful classification of different bodily states, and of the distinctions between the kinds of food adapted to each condition.

Consider this matter, namely, the necessity of adapting the sort of help to the species and cause of the disease; consider this, I say, with the intention of trying in your own mind whether or not it be a fact. Now make to yourself the opposite assertion, "that help in disease is as useful, when not adapted to the species and cause of the

illness, as when it is so adapted." Compare carefully these propositions, and examine the probability of their truth or falsity ; you will find, that one must be true, but that both cannot be true, because they are opposite to, and contradict one another. As however, in your own life, in your own household-work, in the labours of carpenters, builders, and other workmen, as in the growth of grass, of corn, in the passage of the vast winds, in the rise and fall of the great sea, in the vivid glory of the hot sun, in the quiet beauty of the gentle stars, and in all other good works, divine or human, you see this adaptation of the means to the end, this fitness of causes to the effects ; so you can come to but one conclusion, namely, that diseases have their causes, to which the remedy must be adapted, and that, to lessen pain or aid in the cure of disease, your means of relief must be fitted to each particular illness.

Now contrast this conclusion with the advertisements of quack medicines, which meet our eyes in every direction ; observe, that by means of a pill, powder, or ointment, they promise to cure all kinds of disease, to heal every sort of wound. If these statements be true, what becomes of our belief in the relation of cause to effect ? Such advertisements, in every form that can attract attention, fill the sides of newspapers, the covers

of periodicals, teem upon dead walls, crowd into omnibuses, and perambulate our streets on men's backs. Yet many people, with the constant evidence before their eyes, that the infinite effects of nature arise from different causes, that the sorts of disease in the human body are almost innumerable, and that the remedy must be adapted to each; I say, with these plain facts constantly before their eyes, a large number of people run to these advertisers, open-mouthed, ready to swallow both their trash and their lies. The public have lately learnt much of the adulteration of food: they are, in that case, unwilling victims of dishonest traders; but in buying advertised medicines, they are willing victims; they seek their own injury, and they find it.

There is another branch of this system more completely carried out, less rough and gross in its outline, which appeals more entirely to that love of the wonderful and unaccountable, innate in mankind, by setting up rules of a supposed system, marvellous, because directly contrary to all natural laws, so contrary indeed as to place the whole matter beyond the very region of reason, or of argument, and to leave nought of the mind but the love of wonder to appreciate it. It sets out by declaring, that whatever produces a certain effect, will also produce the opposite; that is to say, that

medicines, which cause wakefulness, will produce sleep; medicines, which cause convulsions, will restore repose; medicines producing a difficulty of breathing, will cause easy respiration; or, as I have already said in other words, the same cause will produce two exactly opposite effects. So will a foolish mother slap her child till it cries, and then slap it till it is quiet again; but Nature is not a foolish mother, and does not use her children so. There would however be some danger in the above theory, when carried into practice; and a person oppressed with blood in the brain, and with heavy sleepiness, would be greatly injured by opium, it therefore becomes necessary to render the practice in itself harmless; and the most obvious way to do this is, to make the medicines powerless by using them in very small quantities. To conceal the object of this manœuvre, another theoretical maxim is invented, which, to be a fit companion for the former, must also be unnatural and strange. The following is hit upon, "that the smaller the cause the greater the effect." This is an admirable idea, rendering it safe to entrust all persons with little bottles containing little sugar-plums, labelled arsenic, strychnia, opium, etc. etc., with which they might play in pleasing recklessness; and moreover the maxim so completely contradicts every law of nature and every principle of science,

that Knowledge herself has nothing to say on the subject.

These maxims are not however spoken in English, but in Latin; the first, namely, "whatever produces a certain effect will produce its opposite," is the proper translation of the words "*Similia similibus curantur.*" The next, "that the smaller the cause, the greater the effect," is intended to account and apologize for infinitesimal doses;* and the whole concern is called *Homœopathy*: a word, which is meant, I believe, to express, that the remedy is like the disease.

I need perhaps scarcely tell you, that *Homœopathy*, applied in its own characteristically small doses, is in itself harmless; but it becomes dangerous, when, in a case of real sickness, it keeps efficient aid away; and still more so, when under its apparent protection, a large quantity of medicine is given, as is sometimes done, by persons ignorant of its true action.

It is with regret, that I now must come to the last few words of my intercourse with you; but even if the subject could secure your attention for a longer period, yet in the busy London season it

* The infinitesimal dose is a fraction of a grain. The numerator of this fraction is one, the denominator infinity. It is with regard to substance what we might imagine of time, if it were possible to divide a moment by eternity.

would be difficult to continue meeting you at this hour. Interested hearers make zealous teachers, and I have felt throughout, that you have been interested—that what I have said has fallen on a fertile soil, and if the seed was good, so also will be the fruit.

APPENDIX.

RECEIPTS FOR SICK COOKERY,

ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE FIVE DIVISIONS OF
THE BODILY CONDITION.

First Division.

STRONG FEVER, WITH OR WITHOUT OPPRESSION.

Breadstuffs made up with water ; drinks prepared with water and fruit. These breadstuffs are principally flour made into bread and biscuit, oatmeal, barley, arrowroot, sago, tapioca, maccaroni, rice, ground rice, semolina. For all preparations of plain food, there is one general direction to be always observed, namely, to mix them smoothly in the first instance, breaking all knots and small lumps. This must always be done by mixing a small quantity of fluid *at first* with the powder, flour, or grains, and then adding by degrees the rest of the fluid, stirring all the time.

SOPPED BREAD OR BISCUIT.

Put a biscuit, or part of one, or a crust of bread, in a saucer, and pour upon it a small quantity of boiling

water ; cover it down close with a teacup, or small basin. In about ten minutes you will find it swelled, and perfectly soaked ; you may then beat it up, and add more water, tea, or coffee, and sweeten. This makes a more agreeable kind of sop than by merely breaking a biscuit into water or tea.

OATMEAL GRUEL.

This is the commonest form of low diet, yet very rarely made well. It only requires attention. Put the groats or oatmeal into a saucepan, pour a little cold water on it and mix it well ; add the cold water and stir it occasionally ; boil it slowly, and never neglect to stir it. Strain it, and put sugar or salt, as best suits the taste. About a pint of water to an ounce of groats is the proportion, and this quantity requires about three quarters of an hour's slow boiling.

ARROWROOT.

A dessert-spoonful of arrowroot will thicken about half a pint of water. Put a small quantity of cold water to the arrowroot, and mix it well ; then add by degrees the half-pint of boiling water, stirring it all the time, and until it is of a pleasant thickness, and clear. It may be sweetened, and flavoured with lemon or orange juice, or eaten plain.

TAPIOCA, SAGO, AND SEMOLINA.

These should be soaked in cold water for five or six hours, then simmered in the same until the grains become quite clear, and something like a thick jelly. A little lemon-peel boiled with it gives a flavour. It may be sweetened slightly.

RICE CAUDLE.

Rub a table-spoonful of ground rice into a little cold water. Have about half a pint of water boiling in a saucepan ; pour in the rice, and boil it till of a pleasant thickness ; add sugar, lemon, powdered cinnamon, or nutmeg, as may be desirable. Boil it till it is quite smooth.

PEARL-BARLEY WATER.

Wash an ounce of pearl-barley in cold water three or four times, throwing away the water each time, as it will be very dirty ; or you may boil it for a few minutes, and then pour the water away. Then add about a pint and a half of water, a bit of lemon-peel, and a little sugar. Let it simmer, stirring it constantly, till of a nice thickness ; strain, and add lemon-juice. If a very slight flavour of lemon is preferred, with very little acid, put a slice of lemon with the barley and the water. Sweeten to your taste. A few sweet almonds, beaten to a paste, gives a pleasant flavour to this drink : and to the preparations of arrowroot, rice, etc., where acid is not allowed, almonds may be substituted. Apples may also be sliced into pearl-barley water when hot. Apples, boiled to a pulp, may be mixed with pearl barley drink, or plain water.

LINSEED TEA.

Put an ounce of linseed and one pint of boiling water into a jug or jar ; cover it down, and let it stand for four hours near the fire ; strain it. Liquorice-root or lemon-peel may be added to the seeds, to give a flavour to the tea. It will not keep.

APPLE TEA.

Slice apples, and pour boiling water over them ; let this stand for two or three hours, well covered, and then sweeten. The juiciness of the apples must regulate the quantity of water. Pears may be also used.

LEMON WATER.

Put two or three slices of lemon, thinly pared, into a teapot, with a bit of peel and some sugar ; pour in a pint of boiling water, and cover it close for two hours.

LEMONADE.

Peel one lemon, or more, according to the quantity required, and the size of the fruit. Pour a small quantity of boiling water over the peel, and cover it close. Squeeze the lemon, and remove the pips. Pour some boiling water upon sugar, in a separate jar, or jug, or basin. When the sugar is perfectly melted, put the juice to it ; add cold water, tasting as you proceed, till you find the drink does not taste too strongly of the juice ; then put in enough of the peel, flavouring as is agreeable. Lemons differ so much in the quantity of juice they yield, and even in the strength of the acid, that accurate directions as to quantities are useless : you must be guided by taste. Be careful to melt the sugar in water before you add juice. Oranges may be used with, or instead of, lemons.

IMPERIAL WATER.

This is a cheaper kind of lemonade, very cooling and refreshing, and easily made.

Put half an ounce of cream of tartar, and the juice and peel of one lemon, in a large jug ; pour on them

about three pints of boiling water ; stir, and cover close till cold : sweeten to your taste.

TO MAKE COFFEE.

Take an ounce of ground coffee, put it in a jug with a lid, and let it stand by the fire till it is quite hot ; but you must turn it, to prevent its burning. Or you may put the coffee in a saucepan or tin coffeepot over the fire till it is quite hot ; then pour over it a quart of boiling water ; close the pan or jug ; keep it near the fire. When you pour it out, only be careful not to shake it. Tea heated before the water is poured upon it, has much more flavour, and goes further, than when made in the usual way.

TOAST AND WATER.

Toast a slice, or small lump of bread, till it is very brown, but not burnt black ; then put it into a jug of cold water ; cover it, and let it stand an hour.

FRUIT-DRINKS OF

Fresh Currants, Raspberries, Cherries.—Put the fruit into a jar, and set it in the oven, or into a saucepan of water over the fire, till the fruit bursts, and gives out its juice. Pour this off through a piece of muslin, or strainer, slightly pressing the fruit. This juice, sweetened, and mixed with water, makes a pleasant drink ; or it may be used with arrowroot, sago, etc., to flavour them.

The fruit which is left, if not squeezed dry, will make a family pudding by mixing it with batter, rice, or bread-crumbs, and baking or boiling it.

Cranberries may be similarly used in the winter.

HOW TO BOIL RICE.

Wash a quarter of a pound of rice, and throw it into a pint of boiling water ; boil for ten minutes, or longer, till each grain of rice is soft and separate. Drain it in a sieve, or on a clean cloth ; put it in a pot, and set it near the fire : it will continue to swell. It may be eaten with a little butter or sugar, or with salt ; or may be sweetened with treacle. It may have fresh fruit or a little preserve mixed with it, or a little grated cheese. It will also be ready to put into broth.

Second Division.

FEVER WITH WEAKNESS.

Breadstuffs are to be prepared as in the former receipts, except that they may be mixed with milk and water, or with milk alone.

WEAK BROTHS, ESPECIALLY CHICKEN OR VEAL BROTH.

This may be made of the legs, head, neck, feet, and bones of a chicken, or the knuckle-bone of veal ; being merely boiled slowly, for two or three hours, in water. It is possible to purchase the remains of fowls and joints ; and a little knowledge of cookery will enable you to boil such parts down into good broth. You have only to take care that your saucepan is clean, that there is as little fat as possible upon the meat, and then to cover the vessel close, and boil it very slowly, occasionally removing any scum that may rise to the surface.

ORANGE JELLY.

This may be prepared with gelatine or isinglass.

Squeeze the juice from the fruit and remove the pips, and put some of the rind into it ; melt the sugar perfectly in some hot water, and pour it on the juice. Six oranges will require about a quarter of a pound of sugar. Taste the fruit and sugar, and if very rich you may add a little water. Having melted the isinglass or gelatine (about an ounce) in a very small quantity of water, add it to the syrup, and just boil for a minute : take out the rind. This jelly is not intended to look clear, and therefore need not be strained, as straining diminishes the strength.

EGGS.

The yolk of an egg beaten up in tea, or in cold milk, is nourishing. The white may be beaten up with thin arrowroot or sago ; or the whole egg mixed with milk, and sweetened.

FLOUR CAUDLE, OR THICK MILK.

Rub a large spoonful of flour into about five of cold water ; heat five spoonfuls of new milk slightly sweetened, and, when boiling, pour it gradually over the flour and water : put it on the fire and boil twenty minutes, stirring all the time.

Tie a handful of dry flour light in a cloth, and boil as if it were a dumpling, for an hour ; rub off the outer hard skin and grate the flour, mixing it as above. Baked flour may also be used in a similar way. This is good food for infants whose bowels are weak.

COFFEE MILK.

Boil a dessert-spoonful of ground coffee in nearly a pint of milk, for a quarter of an hour ; then put into it a shaving or two of isinglass ; let it boil a few minutes,

and set it on the side of the fire ; the coffee will sink to the bottom, and you will be careful not to shake it : sweeten slightly.

Fine green tea used instead of coffee is very pleasant, and requires no isinglass ; but it should be boiled longer.

Cocoa and chocolate are sold so prepared that only hot water or milk need be poured on them to make them ready for use. Chocolate cakes are very cheap.

PLAIN BOILED BREAD AND MILK.

An old-fashioned meal rarely well made. Put stale bread into a basin, the pieces of equal size, the shape of dice, but larger ; make the milk boil, and at the moment it rises, pour it over the bread ; cover the basin close with a plate for ten minutes ; the bread will then be perfectly and equally soaked.

MILK PORRIDGE.

Take some very thick smooth gruel, and when strained, and still hot, thin it with boiling milk.

Third Division.

MORE WEAKNESS WITH IRRITABLE* FEVER.

Orange jelly, with wine, made as before, with the addition of white wine : the quantity of isinglass or gelatine to be increased in proportion to the fruit and wine.

CALF'S-FOOT JELLY.

Two calves'-feet, or a cow-heel, the latter being much

* I have used this adjective instead of hectic, which is only applicable to the worst forms of irritable fever.

cheaper and equally nourishing. Buy the feet with the hair on, because when ready-prepared a great deal of the substance which makes jelly has been boiled away. In order to get the hair off, have ready a saucepan of boiling water; hold the foot in with your fingers, so that the water just covers the hair; from five to ten minutes is long enough: the hair will scrape off easily with a knife. Put the feet into about five pints of water, and boil them till half the water is wasted; strain it, and when cold take off the fat; put it into a saucepan with sugar, lemon-juice, some lemon-peel, according to your taste. If wine is permitted, you will put in as much as is judicious. In order to clear the jelly, the whites of five eggs, well beaten to a froth, and the shells broken up, must be added. Set the jelly on the fire, but do not stir it after it begins to warm; when it rises to a head let it boil for twenty minutes; prepare a bag of coarse flannel shaped like a V, with two strings on the broad part, by which to tie it to the backs of two chairs; a coarse hucka-back towel, which may be tacked together, making one corner the point, is even a better jelly-bag; dip the bag in hot water and squeeze it dry. Having placed a basin or shape under the point of the bag, pour the contents of the saucepan carefully into the bag, and they will run slowly through into the shape; do not press the bag, or the jelly will be cloudy; great clearness is not important, since this quality is more to please the eye than the palate. Calf's-foot jelly may be made without wine.

BEEF TEA.

So called, because it used to be made in an earthen teapot. Take some lean but juicy beef, say a pound

of it cut into slices or dice. Put it in a jar with a lid, and pour a pint of hot water on it, and place the jar in a saucepan of water over the fire. It should stand heating and simmering till the raw flavour is gone. You will find that it becomes a watery fluid, with brown particles in it ; these sink to the bottom and it must therefore be stirred before use. Beef tea, when well made, forms a pleasant and valuable nourishment.

MACCARONI.

This is light nourishing food, and not dear ; for it weighs light, and a little goes a good way. Soak it in water for a short time ; boil it in salt and water (be careful not to make it too salt) till it is swelled to three times its original size, and till it is perfectly tender. It may be eaten quite plain, or with a little butter, or it may be added to weak broth.*

Maccaroni may be boiled in milk and sweetened. It is very good in a pudding. After it has been simmered in milk till tender, put it into a baking-dish with sugar, an egg beaten up in more milk, and bake.

COMMON RICE PUDDING.

Butter a baking-dish ; put a small teacupful of rice, a

* The value of maccaroni is not understood in England. M. Soyer has observed upon this, and his remarks are well worth attention. He says maccaroni may be bought in London at five-pence per pound, and that one pound makes four pounds of food when boiled. His receipt for boiling it is as follows:—

Put in an iron pot or stewpan two quarts of water ; let it boil : add two teaspoonfuls of salt, one ounce of butter ; then add one pound of maccaroni ; boil till tender ; let it be rather firm to the touch : it is then ready for use.

It is excellent with a little cheese grated over it, or added to

little sugar, and a bit of butter ; fill the dish with milk, and grate a little nutmeg over the whole : bake slowly till the rice is swelled and soft. Some persons like the rice to be first boiled, and an egg or two well beaten with the milk.

SWISS PUDDING.

Butter a baking-dish ; put in a layer of bread-crumbs, then a layer of apples peeled and sliced, then a thin layer of brown sugar ; repeat this till the dish is full ; and bake slowly.

Puddings may be made of arrowroot, sago, tapioca, semolina, ground rice, first prepared as directed when given with milk. Add eggs well beaten, and butter ; and bake. The richness of the pudding is increased by the quantity of eggs and butter.

BREAD PUDDING.

Grate old bread, or take stale pieces of bread, and pour boiling milk over them ; cover down till perfectly soaked ; beat them quite smooth ; add sugar, eggs well beaten, and milk ; grate nutmeg on the top, and bake ; or put into a basin, and boil. Broken stale biscuits may be used instead of bread.

BREAD-AND-BUTTER PUDDING, FROM SOYER'S RECEIPT.

Cut some bread and butter very thin ; place it in a pie-broth, put into hot milk ; thus it will be good either as sweet or savoury. It will be found a good substitute for potatoes, making a pleasant change of diet : it is nutritious and wholesome. It requires no different utensils, and no more fire than to boil potatoes. At the season when old potatoes are bad, and new potatoes unripe and dear, it will be found a very valuable article of food.

dish as lightly as possible till three-parts full ; break into a basin one egg, add two teaspoonfuls of flour, three of brown sugar ; mix all well together ; add to it by degrees a pint of milk, a little salt ; pour over the bread ; bake for about half an hour. These puddings are good when cold, or will bear to be warmed up again.

PLAIN BATTER PUDDING, BOILED OR BAKED.

Beat up one or two eggs, according to the size you intend to make : one will be enough for a pudding for an invalid. Having beat it well, add milk, then take a little flour and a pinch of salt ; pour some of the milk and egg upon it, and mix perfectly smooth ; add flour till the batter is slightly stiff. If it is to be boiled, flour a cloth and tie it tight over the cup or basin, and boil for twenty minutes ; if to be baked, butter a small dish, and bake it lightly : watch its rising, as it ought to be very light.

VEGETABLE SOUP WITHOUT MEAT.

This may be made of turnips, vegetable marrow, or pumpkins. Take about two pounds of the vegetable, peeled and cut into slices or large dice ; put them into a saucepan on the fire with a quarter of a pound of salt butter or fat ; add two teaspoonfuls of salt, one of sugar, and one quarter of a spoonful of pepper, a gill of water, and one sliced onion ; stew gently until the vegetable is a pulp ; then moisten, and stir round two tablespoonfuls of flour with three pints of either milk, skim milk, or water : boil ten minutes and serve. Vegetables are dear in London, but when thus dressed they give more nourishment and a more satisfying meal.

A lettuce cut into slices, a few old green peas, a carrot and turnip, prepared as above, make an excellent vegetable soup. Weak broth may be substituted for milk and water. A shank-bone of mutton boiled slowly will produce enough broth for vegetable soup ; a pork shank-bone, or the pig's foot, or two sheep's trotters are also very suitable. The bones of a sheep's head, after the meat has been eaten, will make a good supply of broth for vegetable soup.

Dried white or grey peas, or dried kidney-beans, make good soup, either with water only, or with weak broth. Soak the beans or peas twelve hours in cold water and strain them ; add a little onion, celery, salt, and either water or broth, and stew till the beans are quite soft. A pint of beans or peas require about three pints of water.

Fourth Division.

GREAT WEAKNESS WITH HECTIC FEVER.

STRONG BROTHS.

The best parts for broth are those which contain the least fat and the most tendon ; such as the shanks of mutton and pork, the shin of beef, the scrag end of the neck of mutton or veal, the bones of fresh meat, and the necks and feet of fowls. The proportion of meat and water for strong broth is about half a pound to a pint. The meat should be placed at the bottom of a stewpan, which has a tightly fitting lid, with a small quantity of salt, an onion, and a few peppercorns ; pour a quarter of a pint of hot water on these, and let

them stew, stirring to prevent burning, till they are of a nice brown colour, when add the quantity of cold water, and remove the scum as it rises ; then cover it close and let it simmer very slowly for several hours, according to the quantity. Strain the broth from the meat ; let it stand till cold, when all the fat grease will have risen to the top, and can be easily removed. Broth or soup should be made the day before it is wanted, because great waste is caused by haste : the goodness of the meat and bones is never extracted when there is fast boiling. A small fire will always keep up the slow simmer broth requires.

Veal and beef together make excellent broth ; or cow-heel instead of veal.

A cow-heel, plain boiled, will give a very good meat dinner for an invalid in one day, and the bones will then help to make broth. The water in which it has been boiled should be set aside, and the bones boiled in it instead of in plain water. Where there is perfect cleanliness, the water in which meat has been boiled may always be saved to help to make broth.

Let the bones for broth be cut and chopped up, and the meat scored across both ways, to allow the juices to escape.

Some butchers sell the bones after they have cut off the meat for steaks ; and these are cheaper than a piece from a joint, and, with careful cooking, make excellent broth. A small piece of meat, such as a chop or steak, is more wholesome grilled than fried.

Broths should be made strong, because it is very easy to dilute them with a little water. The stronger the jelly, the longer it will keep.

EGGS,

Beat up with wine, are very strengthening ; and a little wine goes a good way when mixed with eggs or water, arrowroot, sago, tapioca, etc.

TO POACH AN EGG.

Have ready a saucepan of boiling water ; break an egg carefully into a teacup, so that the yolk is not burst, and put the teacup into the saucepan. By this plan it takes rather a longer time to poach an egg, but it is done to a nicety and in the most cleanly way. A piece of bread and butter, or bread toasted lightly, should be placed on the dish or plate, and the egg slipped upon it from the cup without bursting it.

Fifth Division.

EXHAUSTION.

In these cases it is sometimes of the greatest importance to prepare strong nourishment very quickly, and also to give a large quantity of nourishment in a small bulk.

MUTTON BROTH QUICKLY MADE.

Take two or three ribs out of the middle of a neck or loin of mutton. Take away the fat, chop the bones across, and score the meat across after having beaten it ; cut in small pieces ; add a slice of onion and salt ; put a little hot water upon the meat, and let it warm through ; then add about three-quarters of a pint of water and boil quickly ; if scum rises, remove it ; cover the pan close, and the broth will be ready in half an

hour, perhaps less. When this is poured off, a weaker broth may be slowly made from the meat and bones.

ESSENCE OF MEAT.

One pound of knuckle of veal, ditto of mutton, ditto of beef, cut small, and served without any fat. Put these with a little salt into a jar with about a pint of water. Place the jar in a saucepan of cold water, and boil slowly for two hours ; then pour off the soup, and add another pint of water, and boil in the same way. Port-wine may be added to the broth, if desirable.

A very strong soup may be obtained by putting a piece of meat, cut and scored, in a baking dish or tin with a very little water, and set in an oven not hot enough to bake the meat. The parts which best yield these strong juices are those about the neck and loin's end—any part which is full of these juices. The meat will afterwards be very good beaten fine in a mortar, and adding butter, salt, and pepper. A little potted meat is often easily digested. Cold beefsteak is excellent when thus potted.

A MEANS OF GIVING WINE.

Toast lightly a piece of bread rather more than an inch in thickness ; lay it in a soup-plate or large saucer ; put sugar upon it, either fine brown or powdered white ; pour the wine (usually Port) upon it, and see that the toast is soaked ; grate nutmeg over it. The size of the toast must of course depend upon the quantity of wine to be taken. Strong ale may be given in the same way, where it is desirable.

TO SCALD WINE.

A glass of wine, a table-spoonful of water, two lumps

of sugar, six allspice berries, and two cloves ; put these in a saucepan, and just scald, *not* boil : a thin piece of toasted bread may be put into it, or eaten dry. This is sometimes a good restorative in depression from cold, or diarrhoea.

TO MULL WINE.

Beat up the yolk of one or more eggs perfectly ; scald a glass or more, as required, of Port or white wine, and melt in it a lump or two of sugar. Stir the egg rapidly one way, never changing the direction of the spoon, and keep stirring while you pour in the wine very gradually. Have another glass or basin ready, and pour the mixture quickly, two or three times, from one vessel to the other, which process makes it froth.

WHITE-WINE WHEY.

Put half a pint of new milk, slightly sweetened, into a saucepan, and boil it ; the moment it rises, while still on the fire, pour in a small glass of white wine. The weak wines, such as Cape or Marsala, or common Lisbon, are best. Let it boil up again, and set the saucepan on the side till the curd forms one lump ; be careful not to stir it : the whey will pour off free from the curd. If too strong, add a little water. If wine is forbidden, a little vinegar or lemon-juice will curdle the milk. A little vinegar added to wine will economize the latter.

New milk, with brandy or rum, is sometimes given, a teaspoonful at a time, in cases of great exhaustion. Where the patient has not strength enough to do more than swallow, these nourishing and stimulating fluids

can be sucked through a bent tube with very little fatigue.

TO BOIL FISH.

For all kinds of fish put two teaspoonfuls of salt to every quart of water ; put the fish in with the water cold ; remove the cover, and only let the water simmer. Try with a skewer whether the flesh of the fish sticks to the bone ; if so, it is not enough, if the flesh drop off, it is too much cooked. A mackerel will take from fifteen to twenty minutes, a haddock a little longer ; a pound of fish takes from fifteen to twenty minutes.

TO BAKE FISH IN A TIN DISH.

Scale and clean the fish, dry it well ; chop up fine half an ounce of onions ; put an ounce of butter or dripping in the dish and sprinkle a little chopped parsley and onions at the bottom ; lay in the fish, season with pepper and salt, and lay over the rest of the chopped onions and parsley, with some bread-crumbs, and a little bit of butter or fat, and a little water or broth over all ; put the dish in the oven or before the fire until done ; a large sole will take about an hour. For an invalid the onions should be omitted.

TO FRY FISH.

The art of frying fish consists in having plenty of grease in the pan and making it boil to the utmost before putting in the fish, which should have been laid to dry for some time in a cloth, and then rubbed with egg, and dipped in bread-crumbs ; the grease should be so hot that it browns the fish, not *burns* it ; the fish should be turned once. A fish *well* fried is not an economical dish, because it requires a great deal of fat to fry it in.

TO GRILL FISH.

Mackerel, herrings, and sprats, when not boiled, should be baked or grilled, not fried. Clean the fish, rub a little salt over them, and, if it be allowed, pepper. Lay them on the gridiron over a clear fire of cinders or coke. A mackerel is best split open and laid flat. Steaks of any large fish are very good grilled.

GENERAL HINTS.

There is one point very worthy of observation and care, namely, economy. Sickness is attended with large additional expense : food, fuel, washing, all are increased. On the nurse, whether one of the family, a friend, or a paid attendant, much depends. She must not be careless, or indifferent as to expense or waste.

Whatever is bought or made, should be bought or made with regard to the quantity that is likely to be used, while it will keep good. The season of the year must therefore be taken into account. Everything made with milk changes rapidly ; vegetable broths soon become sour in hot weather ; fruit decays or ferments—jelly turns mouldy—poultices become sour.

In making broth, gruel, puddings,—in short, all the diet of the sick,—the directions of the medical man, and the state of the invalid's appetite, should be kept in view. A patient has frequently cravings which it is injurious and foolish to indulge. Even the proper food soon becomes distasteful, and the thing, he has most longed for, will scarcely be touched, or perhaps rejected the moment the eye beholds it. To indulge the mere

fancies of the sick, is a useless expense of money and time. Children or very old people do not know, or forget this ; and it is a mistaken kindness to endeavour to gratify that kind of diseased appetite, which is ever craving for something new ; indeed, it may be a part of the ailment which must be contended with. The nurse must therefore distinguish, and regulate accordingly, what quantity she orders or prepares. There are certain things, that can be made ready to receive various flavours, such as plain boiled rice, maccaroni, arrowroot with water, sago, etc. ; in short, all the breadstuffs. The arrowroot flavoured with lemon in the morning may be distasteful at night, and positively disagreeable tomorrow. Nevertheless, the arrowroot may be equally important and palatable to the patient, with a change of flavour. Let everything, therefore, that can be used as stock, be prepared simply ; the quantity made ready for the patient's immediate use, can be then proportioned and flavoured to his probable appetite.

All articles should be emptied from the papers, in which they are bought, into jars or canisters, and tied down. Rice, sago, spice, tea, etc., when kept in the paper, lose something of their flavour, or take one not their own. There is also the certain waste of grains spilled and scattered about. Great waste may be caused in making poultices, by preparing more than is needed. The over-quantity is left drying in the saucepan, till it hardens, and the saucepan is cleaned at the cost of much time and labour. If the right quantity be made, and water poured at once into the vessel, it will be quickly cleaned. The habit of leaving a saucepan on the hob, with a small quantity of the cookery left in it to harden

and burn, is one cause of that kind of cooking, which makes all things taste alike ; broth looking as if it were milky, or tasting of burnt grease ; and milk tasting of broth.

Cleanliness, attention, handiness, and economy, will enable a woman to make wholesome cookery. When once she knows what she has to do, and how to do it, the rest depends upon her own qualities, more than upon the number of her utensils, or the size of her stove. Soyer, who deserves our respect for many good services to the sick and wounded, says, that with a gridiron, a frying-pan, and baking-pan, nearly one half of the receipts in his 'Shilling Cookery for the People' may be done ; certain it is, that a great variety of utensils are unnecessary.

The rich, who in health accustom themselves to many luxuries, often require in sickness rich soups and jellies ; poorer people may console themselves with the knowledge, that, as they are not accustomed to these things in health, so in sickness are they generally unnecessary, often indeed likely to disagree.

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