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Health at Home Fracts.





BY

ALFRED T. SCHOFIELD, M.D., M.R.C.S.,

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY.

No. 14.

some nursing and medical terms explained.

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SOME NURSING AND MEDICAL TERMS EXPLAINED.

DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

NOTHING can be more dangerous than to misunderstand what the doctor says, and nothing can be more annoying than to hear him use words we cannot understand. We therefore explain, in simple language, some of the words and appliances used in medicine, surgery, and nursing.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

First of all as to the weights and measures used. You often get bottles of medicine labelled "a sixth part," or "two tablespoonfuls to be taken three times a day." Now it is well to understand that two proper-sized tablespoonfuls equal a fluid ounce, which is written thus $\mathfrak{z}_{\uparrow}^{\bullet}$. A proper-sized tablespoon holds exactly four teaspoonfuls, and each teaspoon should hold 60 drops, which is a drachm, written thus $\mathfrak{z}_{\uparrow}^{\bullet}$. As spoons vary in size, the *only safe course* in taking medicine is either to have the bottle marked in tablespoonfuls or in doses, or, if it is not marked, to buy a marked measured glass holding one ounce. These can often be obtained for one penny each. The ordinary medicine bottle

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holds 6 or 8 ounces, or 12 or 16 tablespoonfuls, and as the dose is generally 1 ounce three times a day, a bottle lasts between two and three days. Sometimes only one tablespoonful is ordered, and then a little water is generally added. You must be careful in this case only to take one of the narrow or tablespoon marks, or half one of the broad or ounce marks. The table of fluid measures is as follows:—

60 drops or minims are one fluid drachm (one teaspoonful), 37.

8 drachms are one fluid ounce (two tablespoonfuls), 37.

20 ounces are one pint (two large glassfuls), 0;.

2 pints are one quart. 4 quarts are one gallon.

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Coll.

Call

No.

Remember that adding water to the dose of medicine does not weaken it, but makes it act more vigorously. You take the same amount of medicine, and the water sends it round the body in a shorter time. It is

NELLCOME an south plan to take a little water after a dose of LIBRAMEdicine. In solids the measures used are as follows:—

20 grains make one scruple, 3:

3 scruples (or 60 grains) one drachm, 37.

8 drachms (or 480 grains) one ounce, 37.

16 ounces one pound.

WY IOO A fluid ounce is not always the same as a solid word, for of course the fluid ounce varies in weight according to the weight of the fluid used.

TEMPERATURE.

The normal or ordinary temperature of the body is 98½°. If it is 100, the person is feverish; if in an adult it is 102, it is a fever; in a child it may be only passing feverishness; if 104, it is a high fever; if 106, it is a very high fever, and a dangerous condition.

If the doctor orders the patient to have a hot bath you will give one at 100° to 105°, for about ten minutes; if a warm bath one at about 95°, for a

quarter of an hour; if a tepid bath one at 85°, for the same time; if a cold bath one about 65°, for five minutes. If the doctor orders any particular sort of medicated bath, he will give you the exact directions, which you must carry out very accurately.

NURSING TERMS.

A steam-tent is simply a bed or cot made into a tent, by being covered with a sheet, raised by a pole at each corner, as in a tent, and open only on the side next the fire. This is used in bronchitis and croup, to keep the person in an atmosphere of steam, so as to moisten the air he breathes. A bronchitis kettle is used to fill the tent with steam.

Fomentations are the application of flannels wrung out of boiling water as dry as possible and rapidly

applied in succession to the part affected.

Poultices, if not otherwise ordered, are always made of linseed meal; they may, of course, be made of bread, charcoal, carrots, &c., if specially ordered. Poulticing a part well means putting on a fresh one every two hours; the greatest care should always be taken at the end of the poulticing to cover the tender part with a layer of wadding. If mustard is ordered with a poultice, it is meant generally to be used with the linseed meal in equal quantities, half and half. A very good way of increasing the effect of a poultice is to pepper it over on the surface. If mustard only is ordered, you either put on a mustard leaf, or mix some fresh mustard on brown paper, and cover it with fine net or muslin. Boiling water must not be used for mustard only.

You may have to use *inhalations*. For this is used a porcelain vessel like a jug, costing 1s. 6d. or 2s., with a cork at the top and a flat spout, by which you breathe in the steam of the hot water inside, into which have been

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put the drugs that are to relieve you. Breathe very deeply and regularly for about five minutes at a time.

You may have to use a spray. A vessel for this costs about 2s. (with vulcanite fittings is the best), and in the bottle the medicine is placed, and then directed in fine spray over the back of the throat or elsewhere.

You may have to use a douche. This is a tin can, hung on a nail on the wall above your head, with an india-rubber tube coming out of the bottom with a little top and a nozzle, by which the affected organ can be bathed with a gentle stream of water.

You may have to use a syringe. In this case what you ask for is a "Higginson's" syringe. It is entirely made of india-rubber; one end of the tube is immersed in the fluid used, the other armed with the vulcanite nozzle, while you squeeze the ball between, and thus keep up a steady stream. Be sure all the air is driven out before you use it, and that the one end is always covered with the fluid. An enema can best be given with the same syringe. Small glass syringes are used for the ear and for infants' enemas. If a simple enema is ordered, about a pint of warm soap and water is meant. Syringing with hot water means with very hot water, at 105°. Merely warm water in these cases generally does more harm than good.

A FEW MEDICAL TERMS.

A broken head means that the skin, not the bone, is broken. When the bone is broken, it is called a fractured skull. A contusion means a bruise; eczema is a very common and generally harmless skin disease, common amongst children. It is troublesome to cure, but it is not generally serious.

Bones are often spoken of as fractured or broken. In a *simple* fracture the bone only is broken; in a compound fracture the skin is broken and there is a wound out of which the broken bone protrudes.

When the doctor speaks of the *stomach*, he means the lower part of your chest, where the bag called the stomach is placed, not what you call the stomach, which is really the abdomen, or belly.

With regard to tumours, remember that they are very common, and more often harmless than dangerous. People have a dreadful fear of tumours, for they are always afraid they may "turn to cancer," so it is well to remember that, even if the doctor says you have a tumour, it may be a very harmless affair after all.

GLOSSARY OF SOME COMMON MEDICAL TERMS.

Abdomen.—The lower part of the body, or belly.

Abscess.—A collection of pus, or "matter," anywhere in the body, the result of inflammation.

Acne.—An eruption of pimples, generally on the face.

Acute.—Sudden, sharp, and short form of disease.

Ague.—An intermittent fever with cold shiverings, followed by dry heat, and afterwards sweating.

Air-passages.-Nostrils, mouth, throat, and windpipe.

Alcoholism.—The disease of drunkenness.

Aliment.—Food.

Alimentary canal.—The whole food-passage from the mouth to the rectum.

Amputation.—Cutting off part or the whole of any limb or member.

Anæmia.—A condition dependent on poverty of blood, known by white and bloodless appearance of face, lips, and gums.

Anæsthetics.—Agents that produce loss of consciousness, such as chloroform and ether.

Aneurism.—A pulsating blood-tumour.

Angina pectoris.—Very painful spasms of the heart.

Anodynes.—Agents that destroy pain, such as opium.

Antidote.—A medicine to counteract the effect of poison.

Antiseptics.—Drugs like carbolic acid, Condy's fluid, &c., that kill infectious germs.

Aorta.—The large artery from the left side of the heart.

Apoplexy.—Bursting of a blood-vessel, generally in the brain.

Asphyxia.—Dying from suffocation.

Assimilation.—Converting digested food into body tissue.

Asthma.—A spasmodic disease of the bronchial tubes.

Astringents.—Drugs that confine the bowels and stop bleeding.

Atrophy.—Wasting of any part of the body.

Auscultation.—Listening to the chest sounds, generally with a stethoscope.

Autopsy.—A post-mortem examination.

Bacteria.—Germs.

Bandages .- Strips of calico for binding up wounds.

Bedsores.—Sores on the back from lying in bed.

Bicuspids.—The two teeth beyond the eye-tooth.

Bile.—A thick, yellow, bitter liquid separated from the blood in the liver.

Boils.—Small inflammatory tumours containing matter.

Bright's Disease.—Inflammation of the kidney.

Bronchitis.—Inflammation of the bronchi, with cough and expectoration.

Calculus.—A stone in the bladder.

Cancer.—An incurable tumour, or eating ulcer.

Canines.—The two eye-teeth in each jaw.

Carbuncle.—A large boil with several openings.

Cardiac.—Belonging to the heart.

Caries.—Ulcerating bone disease of a very chronic character.

Carotid.—A large artery in the neck, taking the blood to the head.

Carron Oil.—Equal parts of linseed-oil and lime-water (for burns).

Cataract.—An opacity of the lens of the eye.

Catarrh.—A cold, with running, in the head or elsewhere.

Cathartics.—Medicines that relax the bowels.

Caustic .- Nitrate of silver, to destroy small growths.

Cervix.—The neck or narrow part of anything.

Chalkstones.—Gouty deposits in the joints.

Chicken-pox.—An infectious fever with an eruption,

very like small-pox, but not severe.

Cholera.—A very infectious form of watery diarrhea, very dangerous, and often diffused by drinking impure water containing the germs.

Chorea .- St. Vitus's dance.

Chronic.—Slow and tedious, hard to cure.

Cicatrix.—A scar, formed by the healing of a wound.

Clavicle.—The collar-bone.

Clinical.—Connected with the sick-bed.

Clubfoot.—A deformity from birth, caused by the drawing up of the heel or toe.

Colic.—Disorder of the bowels, with severe pain.

Collapse.—Complete prostration, as after loss of blood, &c. Coma.—Insensibility from loss of brain power: a form

of dying.

Compress.—A broad bandage.

Concussion.—A shaking of the brain from a fall or blow.

Congenital.—Simultaneous with birth; applied to infantile defects and diseases.

Congestion.—Too much blood in any part: in the lungs often leads to inflammation.

Conjunctiva.—The lining membrane of the eyelids and protecting membrane of the eye.

Constipation.—Difficult action of the bowels, very common and very troublesome.

Contagion (-ious).—A mode of communicating disease by contact or touch.

Contusion.—A bruise.

Convulsions.—Sudden seizures common in children, the eyes being fixed, and the body rigid or moving spasmodically.

Cornea.—The transparent part of the eyeball.

Coryza.—A cold in the head.

Croup.—A noisy metallic-sounding spasmodic cough.

Cupping.—Drawing the blood into any part by glasses exhausted of air.

HEALTH AT HOME.

Cuticle.—The outer layer of the skin.

Delirium.—Wandering of the mind in fever.

Dementia.—Loss of intellect.

Diabetes.—Excessive formation of sugar in the body, constituting a very serious disease.

Diagnosis.—Deciding what the disease is.

Diarrhœa.—Looseness of the bowels.

Dilatation.—The widening of any tube, cavity or opening.

Diphtheria.—An infectious growth of membrane on inflamed throat.

Disinfectant.—Anything that kills germs.

Diuretic.—A drug that increases the urine.

Dressings.—Applications to a wound to heal it.

Dropsy.—Escape of fluid from the blood-vessels into the tissues of any part of the body.

Dysentery.—Action of the bowels with bloody discharge. A serious disease.

Dyspepsia.—Indigestion.

Eczema.—A very common skin eruption. ,

Emetic.—A medicine to cause vomiting.

Endemic.—Prevalent in certain places; applied to disease.

Enema.—An injection of soap and water, or other ingredients, to open the bowels.

Enteric Fever.—Another name for typhoid fever.

Epidemic.—A general, wide-spreading attack of an infectious disease.

Epiglottis.—The flap that closes the top of the larynx.

Epilepsy.—Falling sickness and fits.

Epithelium.—The superficial layer of the mucous membrane.

Erysipelas.—An infectious inflammation of the skin with burning heat and swelling.

Eustachian Tube.—The tube leading from the throat to the middle ear.

Expectorant.—Medicines to bring the phlegm off the chest.

Fatty Heart.—A heart with the muscle changing into fat from want of exercise or from disease.

Femur.—The thigh bone.

Fibrin.—The substance that makes the blood clot.

Fibula.—The small bone of the leg.

Fistula.—A small unhealed opening through which some fluid discharges.

Flatfoot.—A falling of the arch of the foot. A painful disease caused by long standing.

Flatulence.—Wind in the intestines.

Fluctuation.—The movement of fluid under the skin when pressed by the finger.

Fomentation.—Flannels wrung out of boiling water and laid on the part and constantly changed.

Forceps.—Surgical pincers of various shapes.

Gallstones.—Concretions of bile formed in the gall-bladder.

Ganglion.—(1) A nerve centre. (2) A swelling at the wrist.

Gangrene.—Mortification of a part.

Gastric Fever.—Another name for typhoid fever (gaster means the stomach).

Gout.—An inflammatory disease affecting any part, specially the big toe. It may also affect any internal organ.

Gravel.—Concretions in the urine, resulting from indigestion or gout.

Hæmaturia.-Blood in the urine.

Hæmorrhage.—Bleeding from any part, external or internal.

Hare-lip.—A divided lip in new-born infants.

Hay-fever.—A violent cold in the head and sneezing, common in hay-time, and tending to recur.

Heartburn.—A sensation caused by an acid rising from the stomach.

Hemiplegia.—Paralysis of one side of the body.

Hepatic.—Belonging to the liver.

Hernia.—A protrusion of any of the contents of the abdomen (generally the intestines).

Herpes.—Shingles; a skin eruption.

Hooping - Cough.—An infectious spasmodic cough, common in children.

Housemaid's Knee.—A swelling over the knee-cap, from too much kneeling.

Humerus.—The arm-bone.

Hydrocephalus.—Water on the brain.

Hydrophobia.—A disease arising from the bite of a mad dog, accompanied with great dread of water.

Hypertrophy.—Enlargement or overgrowth of any part.

Hypnotic.—A drug causing sleep.

Hypodermic.—Under the skin, generally refers to an injection so given from a small syringe with a needle.

Incisors.—The four front cutting teeth in each jaw.

Infection.—The carrying of disease by the air or by other means.

Inflammation.—A state characterised by heat, redness, pain, and swelling when situated externally. It may affect any part or organ, and if very severe leads to abscesses.

Insomnia.—Sleeplessness.

Integument.—The skin.

Intermittent.—A disease recurring regularly at definite intervals.

Intestinal Obstruction.—A stoppage of the bowels, very dangerous, often resulting from prolonged constipation.

Iris.—The coloured margin of the pupil of the eye.

Jaundice.—A yellow appearance of the surface, caused by bile in the blood.

Kidneys.—The glands for the secretion of the urine.

Knock-knee.—Caused by weak knee ligaments in childhood.

Laryngitis.—Inflammation of the windpipe.

Larynx.—The windpipe.

Lichen.—A skin eruption of small red pimples.

Ligament.—The bands that surround and unite the joints, and bind various bones together.

Ligature.—Silk or catgut used to tie vessels or close wounds.

Lint.—Linen well scraped for dressing wounds, or soft thick cotton material for the same purpose.

Liver, Congested.—Too much blood in the liver.

Lumbago.—Rheumatism in the small of the back,

Lymph.—The colourless coagulable fluid that fills the lymphatic glands and vessels.

Malaria.—Exhalations from marshy places, which

generate fevers.

Malingering.—Shamming or feigning disease.

Malignant Disease.—Fatal diseases, such as cancer.

Mammary.—Belonging to the breast.

Mania.—Madness.

Measles.—An infectious eruption, accompanied with feverishness, cold in the head, and brassy ringing cough.

Meningitis.—Inflammation of the membranes of the

brain.

Molars.—The three last teeth on each side of the jaw.

Monomania.—Madness on one subject.

Mucus.—The fluid secreted by the mucous membrane.

Mumps.—An infectious inflammation of the salivary glands of the cheek.

Nævus.—A mother-mark, consisting of a cluster of blood-vessels.

Narcotic.—A drug causing sleep.

Necrosis.—Mortification of bone.

Nettlerash.—A white rash in wheals, like that produced by the stinging-nettle, caused by sudden indigestion from eating bad fish, &c.

Neuralgia.—Pain in the nerves.

Node.—A swelling on the bone.

Nucleus.—The darker central portion of a body cell.

Occiput.—The back part of the head.

Œdema.—Dropsy in the limbs, so that they "dent" when pressed.

Œsophagus.—The gullet.

Ophthalmia.—Inflammation of the eye, sometimes infectious amongst children.

Opiate.—A medicine to allay pain.

Orbit.—The cavity in which the eye moves.

Otitis .-- Inflammation of the ear.

Palpitation.—Too rapid beating of the heart, often arising from indigestion.

Pancreas.—A digestive gland (the sweetbread).

Paralysis.—Loss of motion, or sensation, or both, often the result of a fit or stroke.

Paralysis Infantile.—A paralysis in infancy that stops the growth of the limb.

Paraplegia.—Loss of motion of lower half of body, including both legs.

Parasite.—Any animal or vegetable that lives on another, as a tape-worm in man.

Parotid Gland.—The large salivary gland in the cheek, which is inflamed in mumps.

Paroxysm. -A sudden seizure.

Patella.—The knee-cap.

Pelvis.—The cavity formed by the two haunch-bones.

Pepsin.—The digestive principle of the gastric juice.

Pericarditis.—Inflammation of the membrane round the heart.

Pericardium.—The membrane round the heart, that encloses it as in a bag.

Periosteum.—The membrane covering bone.

Periostitis.—Inflammation of the membrane round the bone.

Peritoneum.—The membrane covering the bowels.

Peritonitis.—Inflammation of the membrane covering the bowels.

Pharyngitis.—Inflammation of back part of the throat.

Pharynx.—The throat.

Phlebitis.—Inflammation of the veins.

Phthisis.—Consumption.

Piles.—Swollen veins, at or near the extremity of the bowels, forming small lumps that often bleed.

Pleura.—Covering membrane of the lungs.

Pleurisy.—Inflammation of the pleura, accompanied at first with a painful stitch in the side on drawing the breath.

Pleurodynia.—Pain about the ribs. A sort of neuralgia, resembling pleurisy.

Pneumonia.—Inflammation of the lungs.

Polypus.—A soft tumour, often in the nose or ear.

Post-mortem.—Examination of the body after death.

Pulmonic.—Relating to the lungs.

Pulse.—The beating of any artery (generally at the wrist).

Purulent.—Containing pus.

Pus.—Yellow matter.

Pustule.—A pimple containing "matter."

Pyemia.—General blood-poisoning from pus in the blood.

Quinsy.—Inflammation of the tonsil.

Rabies .- Hydrophobia.

Radius.—The small arm-bone.

Rectum.—The end of the bowel.

Renal.—Belonging to the kidney.

Resuscitation.—Restoration when apparently dead.

Retention.—Inability to pass water.

Retina.—The expansion of the optic nerve at the back of the eyeball.

Rheumatic Fever.—A painful dangerous disease, with profuse sweating.

Rheumatic Gout.—Pain and swelling in the smaller joints.

Rheumatism.—Pains in the bones or muscles, with or without fever.

Rickets.—A bone disease due largely to the improper feeding of children.

Rupture.—Protrusion of the bowel under the skin, generally forming a lump in the groin.

St. Vitus's Dance.—Involuntary movement of the limbs or face.

Saliva.—A secretion from certain glands into the mouth.

Scabies.—A skin disease caused by the itch-insect, forming sores between the fingers and elsewhere.

Scarlatina.—Another name for scarlet fever.

scarlet Fever.—A very infectious fever, attended with an eruption of crimson patches, and followed by the skin peeling, which is the most infectious period.

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Sciatica.—A severe pain in the sciatic nerve.

Scrofulous.—Tendency to inflammation of glands.

Septic.—Containing germs, and tending to putrefaction.

Serum.—The watery part of the blood.

Shingles.—A band-like arrangement of vesicles or inflamed patches, generally round one half the body, caused by inflammation of the nerve below.

Shock.—A sudden emotion which violently disturbs

the nervous system.

Slough.—Tissues that have died from disease or injury, generally in an ulcer.

Small-pox.—An infectious pustular eruption, like shot

under the skin.

Spasms.—A violent contraction of one or more muscles.

Spinal Curvature, Angular.—A disease of the bones

of the spine, often dangerous, forming a hump on the back.

Spinal Curvature, Lateral.—A deformity often caused by stooping over a desk when writing or reading.

Splints.—Pieces of board to keep a broken limb in

position.

Spores.—The seeds of the germs, apt to remain in infected clothing, and only destroyed by high temperature, or some disinfectant.

Stethoscope. — An instrument for distinguishing

sounds in the body.

Stomach Ulcer.—A sore spot in the stomach often with vomiting of blood.

Strapping.—Strong plaster in strips.

Stricture.—Narrowing or constriction.

Stroke.—A fit of apoplexy resulting in paralysis.

Stye.—An inflammation of a hair follicle at the edge of

the eyelid.

Styptics.—Drugs which stop bleeding. Suppuration.—Forming of "matter."

Syncope.—Fainting, also stoppage of the heart: a form of dying.

Synovia.—The lubricating fluid in joints.

Tape-worm.—A long tape-like worm, living in the bowels.

Tapping.—Drawing off the watery effusion in dropsy or pleurisy.

Tendon.—The fibrous cord or band at the end of a muscle.

Tetanus.—Lockjaw.

Thorax.—The upper part of the body covered by the ribs, and containing the lungs and heart.

Thread-worm.—Small white worms, chiefly found in the lower bowel.

Thrush.—A white fungus in the mouth, frequently seen in infants.

Thyroid Gland.—The gland in front of the neck that is enlarged in goitre.

Tibia.—The large bone of the leg.

Tic.—Neuralgia in the face.

Tonsils.—The glands on each side of the uvula, at the upper part of the throat.

Tourniquet.—A loose loop of bandages round a limb, which is tightened by the twisting of a stick inserted in it. Used for stopping bleeding.

Trachea.—Windpipe.

Tracheotomy.—Cutting open the windpipe when the throat closes, to admit air.

Tumour.—A swelling or growth, generally without inflammation.

Tympanum.—The ear-drum.

Typhoid Fever.—An infectious fever from drain poisons.
Typhus Fever.—An infectious blotchy eruption, very

infectious.

Ulcer.—An open sore.

Urethra.—The canal through which the urine passes out of the body.

Uvula.—The little tongue at the back of the palate.

Varicella.—Chicken-pox.

Varicose Veins.—Swollen and knotted veins, generally in the leg.

Variola.—Small-pox.

Vascular.—Containing or relating to the blood.

Vertigo.—Giddiness.

Vesical.—Relating to the bladder.

Vesicle.—A pimple full of watery fluid.

Viscera.—The internal organs of the body.

Waterbrash.—Water brought up from the stomach.

Whitlow.—An inflammation of the finger, containing " matter."

Wry neck .- A twisted or stiff neck.

Zymotic.—Diseases dependent on germs in the blood.

We hope this glossary will prove of real use to many; but we cannot close without a few words that have to do with our soul's health.

There are some things more important to understand even than medical terms. And that is the way in which our never-dying souls may be healed. Solomon speaks of every man knowing the plague of his own heart. This is a truth we must not misunderstand: that we all have this deadly plague in our hearts. As the Apostle Paul tells us, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." 2

There is another thing that we must not misunderstand: that there is a Great Physician, Jesus Christ, who is able to heal all the diseases of our souls; and further, that He will heal all those who come to Him, trusting in His death upon the cross, and His power to save.

Another thing we must not misunderstand: that His Holy Spirit sanctifies and makes holy those in whom He dwells, so that sin-this deadly infection of nature -by His power becomes less strong in us. And thus by trusting ourselves to this Great Physician, as we would put ourselves in the hands of a skilful doctor, we are cleared once for all from the guilt of sin, and are being cleansed from its power.

If we accept the remedy, then by God's grace we shall live here below to glorify the Physician Who has healed us, and at length come to the land where "the inhabitant shall no more say, I am sick." 3

¹ 1 Kings viii. 38.