

On the whole the replies to this question were very disappointing. Candidates did fairly well as regards hypnotics, though some drugs were mentioned: such as phenacetin, spirits of ether, tinc. camph. co., which certainly are not usually classed under that category.

BEST ANSWERS.

No. 1.

Coma is caused by: (1) Drugs; as alcohol, opium, and other poisons; (2) Fits; apoplexy, epilepsy, also hysteria (*simulates*) fainting; (3) Head injuries or diseases; compression, concussion, tumour, etc.; (4) Sun-stroke; (5) Suffocation; by water, gas or smoke; (6) Shock; electric, etc.; (7) Anaesthetics; (8) Diabetes; (9) Uræmia.

Apoplexy: The patient, usually past middle life, falls suddenly, the face becomes congested and flushed, the eyes are unequally dilated, one only reacting to light. Temperature will be raised, pulse full and bounding. Respiration: Slow, stertorous. Breath may possibly smell of alcohol, the patient having previously taken some, and very often it has been administered by the first person who saw him. One side of the patient's body will be paralysed, also one side of the face, and should the hæmorrhage be on the left side of the brain, the power of speech will be lost.

Put patient in bed in a warm room, give him plenty of fresh air. Raise the head slightly, turning it on one side to prevent suffocation and to relieve stertor. Protect from falling out of bed. Administer croton oil, m.i, or m.ii if so ordered.

Remove false teeth and examine for and treat any injuries sustained by the fall. Make and keep patient thoroughly clean, as urine and fæces will probably be passed unconsciously, necessitating extreme care of the back, and perhaps constant changing of the bed, which must be well protected by long macintosh. Draw macintosh and sheet while patient is unconscious, avoid giving nourishment by mouth, and later, when he can swallow, restrict him for some time to liquids.

Take and record temperature, pulse, and respiration regularly, four-hourly at first, and keep bowels well opened each day. Attend to general health and comfort of patient, guarding carefully against bed-sores, especially in affected parts. Later, massage

and other treatment may be resorted to to restore the affected muscles. Heat must be applied with extreme care (hot tins to feet, etc.), as there is extreme danger of burning. Avoid stimulants.

No. 2.—TYPHOID FEVER.

Symptoms: First the patient complains of listlessness, drowsiness (especially during the day), headache, anorexia, and general malaise. The temperature and pulse may be slightly above normal. As the attack comes on the temperature is noticed to go up two degrees at night, falling one degree in the morning. Pulse and respiration also become accelerated.

Position: Flat on back. Epistaxis, bronchitis, indigestion, constipation, and possibly retention of urine, are often present. Later, constipation gives place to diarrhœa, stools being the typical "pea-soup" consistency. Delirium comes on. Spots appear in successive crops on the abdomen or back. The tongue becomes dry and brown, sores form on the teeth and lips, and unless improvement sets in, the patient falls into the "typhoid" state: when he picks at the bed-clothes, sinks down in bed, passes urine and fæces under him, pulse becomes rapid and weak, and respiration may be "Cheyne-Stokes."

Nursing treatment: Keep patient at perfect rest in bed, forbidding any movement, all of which must be done for him extremely carefully. Atmosphere warm, fresh air but not draughts. Windows and doors must be guarded if patient delirious.

The bed should be narrow and accessible, the mattress fairly firm, and it is desirable to have a second bed or couch in the room.

Patient's clothes (light and warm) are best opened right down the back.

Diet: This is a point about which there is a great difference of opinion; but a nurse's duty consists in carrying out, conscientiously and exactly the doctor's orders. Probably liquid diet—milk (z5), diluted with barley, soda, or plain boiled water (z3), strained beef tea—will be given two-hourly during the acute stage. Chicken broth, custard, beaten eggs, arrowroot, leading gradually on to light diet, according to state of patient. General treatment comprises attention to the general health and cleanliness of patient; guarding against bed-sores by thorough cleanliness of back and bed, and constant slight alteration of position, which decreases tendency to hypostatic pneumonia.