STUDENT NURSES SECTION

A Message from Miss Pedersen, WHO Regional Adviser in Nursing S. E. Asia given to the Student Nurses on the eve of her departure.

It is with some sadness that I must say *au revoir* to the student nurses of India, but I take the opportunity of conveying to you all my best wishes for the future.

For six years, India has been my headquarters and my home and it has been a very real privilege to participate in your activities and to share with you the responsibility of providing a nursing service that meets the health needs of the people. India's rapidly developing health services and the urgent need for nurses in many new fields of work has focussed considerable attention on nursing and the importance of nurses' professional preparation. This has resulted in expanded and adjusted education and training programmes which provide for a wider concept of nursing and is a challenge in itself to you to participate to the fullest possible extent, to shoulder new responsibilities and prepare yourselves for this work as members of a health team.

Nursing is a progressive art in which to stand still is to go back. As a student nurse of today and nursing leader of tomorrow, make the most of your opportunities and prepare yourselves as fully as possible for the betterment of the profession you have chosen.

Be an active member of your association which demonstrates unity of purposes and a channel through which you can build up nursing as a profession. Read your nursing journal and those of other associations as through these you will learn what nurses in allied fields are doing, and the trend of nursing education and nursing service in a world-wide programme.

As a true nurse grasp firmly the torch of life and carry it high remembering always that the status of your profession is made or marred by the extent to which its members honestly strive for the good of humanity.

A Rare Case of Lepra Reaction

By

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Parthasarathy of Sivaganga was admitted with excruciating pain in the calf muscle and the right foot. This case was first thought to be one of Burger's disease or Thromboangitis obliterans (or King's Disease as some call it), both by the doctors here and by the doctor who has referred this case to our hospital. The patient who had been having this severe pain for three weeks, gave no history of injury.

Clinical Picture : On admission the patient had swelling of the right foot. There was also a small indefinite erythematous patch with some white scales on the dorsum of the foot. The second and third toe also showed a reddish swelling. No exudation. There was loss of sensation to touch and heat over the dorsal and plantar aspects of 2nd and 3rd toes and a corresponding area of the dorsal 1/3 of the foot. Pulsation over the leg and foot arteries was normal.

Few days after admission, the swelling subsided but pain continued. Vitamin B. Complex I.M. and Priscal Tabs. were given with no obvious effect. A cord-like thickened structure was visible and palpable going towards the region of the erythematous patch. A skin clip from this area was found to be negative for lepra bacilli as examined microscopically.

A small portion of this thickened structure was excised by our surgeon and set for biopsy to the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore. The Pathological diagnosis was Tuberculoid Leprosy, a variety of Neural Leprosy.

This was an unusual type of Lepra Reaction. We met with many patients attending our Lepra Clinic who used to complain of neuralagic pains and fever now and then. Some patients used to come with severe constitutional symptoms which mostly respond well to symptomatic treatment or a special treatment for Lepra-Reaction.

The special treatment for Lepra Reaction given in these cases is intravenous administration of Potassium antimony Tartarate which brings a marked relief of symptoms.

The patient under reference improved clinically even though no special treatment for Lepra reaction was given. He was started on specific treatment for leprosy when the pathological diagnosis was received. The patient was asked to attend our Lepra Clinic once in a week for treatment.