

CONSIGNMENT OF CUTLERY IN A MAN'S STOMACH

Miss Macfarlane, of St. George's Hospital, Bombay, having seen the following operation in her hospital, sends the following article:—

Eighteen complete penknives as well as many parts were extracted from the stomach of an Indian magician when he was operated on by a surgeon in St. George's Hospital. Beyond a dozen or so stitches, which are rather irksome, he is making a comfortable recovery and should be able to resume his profession as a regimental 'wizard' before many weeks have gone.

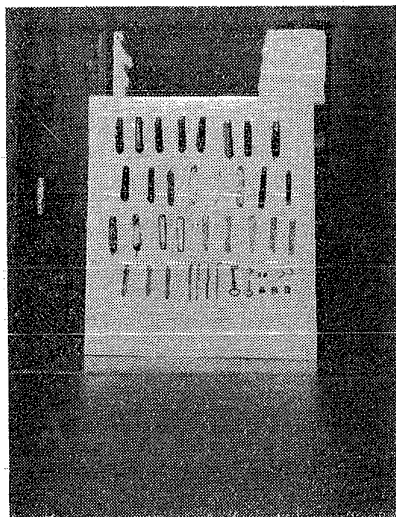
For 15 years this man has been making a very good livelihood by giving magical performances among the officers and soldiers of regiments in Northern India and before Indian princes. For two years in that time he was a soldier with the 3rd Punjab Regiment. Since he left the army on the recommendation of a medical board he has confined his entertainments to regiments in Northern India. He is a native of Rawalpindi.

One of his favourite methods of entertaining illustrious audiences was to swallow penknives whole. There was no question about swallowing them and he had his own method of getting rid of them.

Penknives Left Inside

Some four months ago, however, this method failed on one occasion and he gave a second performance before he had got over the effects of his first. The result was that a dozen penknives were left in his stomach. He made every effort to dispose of these, and in the meantime gave still another performance.

Still he was unable to get rid of the knives and he started to have an unpleasant heavy feeling in the pit of his stomach. He went to Rawalpindi where he was known to an I. M. S. surgeon who sent him to Peshawar. In Peshawar, however, he was not so well known and decided on his own initiative to visit the I. M. S. surgeon at Murden, near Peshawar. This doctor examined him and took an X-ray photograph of him. He discovered that his tale was true and decided to send him to Bombay to be operated upon.



He came to Bombay and his arrival was greeted with a great deal of amusement and scepticism. He was duly placed under the X-ray and the photograph revealed that the Northern India camera had not lied and that a number of penknives were embedded in the man's stomach. In one place several of them lay together, while another one showed up distinctly in

another part of his stomach.

Accordingly he was taken to the operating theatre and the surgeon opened his stomach and started to remove the cutlery. One knife after another was recovered until 18 complete knives lay on the operating table besides the patient. Eleven of these were of the cheap variety with wooden sides on the handles. Five of them had steel handles. The wooden handles of two of them had been almost eaten away by the stomach acids.

This consignment of knives accounted for all that the magician had missed during the past four months but the surgeon kept on exploring the man's stomach and removed the steel sides of two other knives, five flat steel plates which appeared to be knife centres, three naked knife blades, two steel door keys, four steel hooks such as are fitted on more elaborate knives, two steel loops fitted on some knives to attach them to belts and a number of small steel rivets.

The flat steel plates were eaten away by the stomach acids while the steel loops for blade attachments were bent and twisted.

STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION SECTION

Reports and Articles for this Section will be welcomed by the Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss Pitman, Women's Medical College Hospital, Vellore.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HOLDSWORTH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, MYSORE CITY

Student Nurses' Association of the Holdsworth Memorial Hospital began in 1935 with only a few members. But as we are going forward, the number of our members are increasing every year and this enables us to carry on our Association successfully.

As soon as the members who had been to the Conference at Nagpur returned we had a combined meeting of the Student Nurses and Trained Nurses of our hospital during which news and notes about what the delegates had seen and heard at the Conference were told, which encouraged all those who were present.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Monday evening in the month and have included a badminton match between the S. N. A. members and doctors and compounders of our hospital. At another time we arranged a meeting to welcome one of our doctors who had been to England on furlough and our hospital staff as well as patients and other visitors from outside were present, and during the evening we acted the 'Forest Scene' from 'As you like it.' During the year several debates have been arranged as well as evenings for games and socials.

In August we had a business meeting and we selected two of our members to attend the Conference this year, and we decided to raise the money ourselves to cover the expenses. We had this desire when we heard that in other hospitals the S. N. A. members have sent delegates to the Conference by making an effort amongst themselves to raise the money. A few weeks ago we acted a play entitled 'Sleeping Beauty' and thus we were able to obtain enough money to send our members to the Conference.

We are looking forward to this year with hope and gladness trying to follow our great leader Florence Nightingale and to love our profession, serving our patients with love sympathy, truthfulness and self-sacrifice.

We all convey our best wishes to all members who are attending the Conference and hope they will have an interesting and enjoyable time.

More new nurses are waiting to join as soon as Preliminary examination results are out.

ANNAMMA VARUGHESE,
Secretary
(1935-36).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION Lady Curzon Hospital, Bangalore.

Our first meeting this year was a tea-party given to welcome Miss Hartley, when she came to Bangalore on tour in March.

The tea-party was held in the Nurses' Quarters and invitations were sent to all the other hospitals in Bangalore and to all the Private Nurses in the station. About 80 people turned up and were very pleased to meet Miss Hartley and listen to a most interesting talk on the 'Trained Nurses' Association of India.

Two more very successful meetings were also held in our Nurses' Quarters, one in August and one in September.

Quite a large gathering of Nurses' from the various hospitals in Bangalore helped to make these two occasions never to be forgotten and colourful parties.

At our first reception in addition to music during tea, praise goes to Miss Nagle, for her very much appreciated solos, accompanied on the piano by Miss Jones, both of whom are Student Nurses.

The entertainment was followed by a very interesting lantern lecture given by the Residency Surgeon, Lt.-Col. J. B. Hance, I.M.S., on 'Microbes of Tropical Diseases.'

The second happening proved as great a draw as the first; this time with the addition of a good wireless programme.

The enjoyable evening was terminated by a lecture on 'Cholera' for which we were greatly indebted to Dr. C. Rozario, R.M.O. of the Government Isolation Hospital.

Another grateful help that I must not forget, is a donation of Rs. 25 given by a patient, towards this year's delegation.

Now to talk of exhibits, which the Student Nurses are making perfect, to the best of their ability, I hope, the finish will be the proof of their enthusiasm.

THE MOTHERCRAFT PAGE

Articles for this page will be most gratefully received by the Editor,
Miss Diana Hartley, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.S. Certificate

A VISIT TO THE QUADS

[From *The Nursing Times*.]

Ann, Michael, Paul and Ernest, England's most famous babies, gazed at us with alert interest as we looked through the Vita-glass windows of their nursery. My first feeling was one of surprise that one-year-olds should show such poise on being visited by absolute strangers; then I remembered how used the Quads must be to fresh faces, for on some days as many as 300 visitors pass by their glass windows to gaze at them with interest and admiration. After 300, what were three? Moreover, we were being introduced by their mother, Mrs. Miles.

Little People of Poise. The four babies were sitting in a row in their four green, high chairs. Ernest waved a toothbrush at me by way of greeting, and, at my request, showed me he really knew how to use it. Ann leant forward and grabbed my two hands in her chubby fists, refusing to let go; Michael, the dark one, the scamp of the family, grinned joyously, his eyes inviting a game of some kind; only Paul looked at me with some reserve, intimating that he did not exactly disapprove—as long as I kept my distance! He is the shy one, Mrs. Miles explained, and yet the most affectionate of all those he knows. They had just finished their midday dinner, and looked ready and eager for the next event, whatever it should be.