

being to-disorganize the muscular apparatus, leading to tremors and unsteadiness of gait, which, however, may be promptly recovered from. Giddiness, nausea, and other functional disturbances are directly attributable to the sudden change of blood pressure. The sounds emitted by persons under the empire of anger vary, passing from the monotonous cry of infancy, through the animal-like noises of childhood, to the threats and oaths of adult life. In exceptional cases there is a kind of inhibitory paralysis of the sound-producing apparatus, but in general the omission of a noise of some sort seems to be the necessary accompaniment of this state of pent-up energy. The state which we call irritability results from impairment of the inhibitory powers, and is often due to illhealth or to fatigue and loss of sleep. The irritability of convalescence is a sign that the lower reflexes are restored before the higher, for the "department of inhibition" is the controlling power of the organism and the seat of the highest manifestations of the *ego*.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

### **The Nurse as a Specialist\*.**

We have from time to time wondered what is to happen to the nurses in the present rapid development and differentiation of medical practice. We accept the fact of specialism among physicians with varying degrees of equanimity, depending upon our education and prejudices, but with a natural conservatism we are inclined to protest against a like tendency among nurses. Nevertheless the inevitable has happened, and nurses are already specialists. Go to a directory and one is met with the query as to whether one wishes a surgical, or an obstetric, or a general medical nurse, or one experienced in caring for the insane. Each of these varieties is recognized, and no doubt many more will spring into being as the demand arises. The situation is certainly an interesting one, and one to which attention must sooner or later be directed as regards the prescribed course of training. It is evident that certain hospitals offer opportunities which others do not, and that a special training may be had in one which would be quite impossible in another. The result is that nurses skilled in the care of certain types of disease are being turned out in greater numbers year by year, who are likely to find employment only in one branch of medical practice.

This means specialism for nurses, a fact which we should clearly recognize, and not too deeply regret, since it is unavoidable. No doubt this question will finally settle itself, as do many others over which we vainly lament. In the meantime it behooves us to readjust our training schools to meet the coming requirements.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*.