by which nature cures the effects of injury or disease.

The blood is hot—its temperature being about 100 degrees F.—and, chemically, it is an alkaline fluid consisting of watery, solid and gaseous matters, the proportion of which vary according to age, sex, and the condition of the individual. Roughly speaking, however, in every 100 parts of the blood there are 79 parts of water, and 21 parts of solids; of the latter, 12 parts are corpuscles, about 6 parts are albumen—a substance resembling the white of an egg—and about three parts are a mixture of fibrin, saline, fatty, and saccharine matters It is interesting to remember that, considering the conspicuous part which, as we have said, fibrin plays in the coagulation of the blood, ordinary healthy blood only yields from 2 to 4 parts in a thousand of its weight, of fibrin.

The blood contains a comparatively large quantity of gases, which are carbonic acid, oxygen, and nitrrogen—in other words, the same gases as those which exist in the atmosphere, but in very different proportions. The blood contains much more oxygen gas than pure water could hold in solution at the same temperature and pressure, a peculiarity which appears to depend upon the corpuscles, because mere serum has no greater power than pure water has, and it has been proved by experiment that red corpucles suspended in water, instead of serum, absorb oxygen very readily. The oxygen thus held by the red corpuscles is readily given up by them, apparently being held in chemical combination with the hæmoglobin; and how important this fact is in physiology, and in the nourishment and purification of the blood, you will hereafter see.

It is sufficient for the moment, however, to remember the fact, that animal diet tends to increase the quantity of red corpuscles, and vegetable diet tends to diminish them. The loss of blood has a very marked influence in diminishing the number of red corpuscles, a practical point which is of great importance in the estimation of a patient's condition and the determination of the necessary treatment, in many cases.

The total quantity of blood in the body varies very much at different times, but it has been roughly estimated on the average at about one-thirteenth of the whole weight of the body. The function of the blood is to supply nourishment to, and to take away waste matters from, all parts of the body; it is, therefore, absolutely essential to the life of every part of the body that it should be in intimate relation with the current of the blood, so that matters can pass freely from the blood to the tissues, and from the tissues to the blood by transuding through the walls of the vessels in which this life-giving, purifying fluid is contained.

(To be continued.)

Nursing Echoes.

*** *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

The *Nurses' Journal* (quarterly) is full of interesting matter:—An Editorial on the formation of the Registered Nurses' Society; articles on "The Open-air treatment of Phthisis" by Dr. Bezley Thorne; "The Sterilisation of Milk"; "Hints on Ophthalmic Nursing," by Mr. Brudenell Carter, F.R.C.S.; "On the care of the Aged" by Dr. Schofield; and "Nursing as a Profession," by Miss Josephine de Pledge; besides reports of meetings and routine business of the Association, make this Journal a most valuable addition to the Nursing literature of the day, and well worthy the perusal of others, besides the members of the R.B.N.A.

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The most significant paragraph in the Journal, is headed "Expulsion of a member of the Corporation," and we gladly give publicity to so serious a matter by reporting it in full:—

"A charge of insobriety, and of consequent misconduct when in attendance upon a patient, having been brought against Nurse M. E. MacGregor, a member of the Corporation, by the medical practitioner in charge of the case, Nurse MacGregor was summoned to appear before the meeting of the Council, on the 12th of January, and the complaint was investigated *in camerâ*, with the assistance of the learned Counsel of the Corporation, Mr. Muir Mackenzie. The complainant having given evidence, Nurse MacGregor was heard in her defence; and, as she asserted that she could produce rebutting evidence, the inquiry was adjourned for twelve days, in order to enable her to do so; the Council further undertaking to pay the expenses of any witnesses then produced, whose evidence might prove to be relevant and important. The adjourned meeting was held on the 24th of January, when Nurse MacGregor neither attended, nor was represented, nor were any witnesses in attendance on her behalf. Forty-one members of the Council were present; and, after full and careful consideration of the evidence, it was resolved, by thirty-seven votes, that Nurse MacGregor had committed the offence with which she was charged, and that, under the provisions of the Charter (Sect. "General Council"), she should be, and thereby was, expelled from membership of the Corporation."

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The following letter, headed "Lady Volunteers" appeared in the *Standard* last week in reply to a most sensible criticism of the scheme.

"Sir,—Will you kindly permit me to say a few words in *The Standard*, in answer to the letter of a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which appeared on the 14th inst., protesting against the formation of a Women's Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, and which will, I hope, en-

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