

has brought about consolidation and fixation of the diseased surfaces. When the patient is able to move about again, it is necessary to give some form of mechanical support, such as a jacket or a special arrangement of steel rods, and when these are worn the Nurse must take great care to prevent injurious pressure of the hard edges of the instrument upon the skin. Success or failure in cure is largely dependent upon the manner in which the patient's health and strength is maintained by careful dieting and nourishment. Cod liver oil is almost invariably used whenever possible in such cases, and sometimes half the battle depends upon the Nurse succeeding in inducing a child to take this medicine regularly.

Lateral curvature of the spine arises from weakness of the ligaments and muscles which support the vertebræ. It is exceedingly common in this country, chiefly amongst girls of the lower classes, between the ages of ten and sixteen. It is a curious fact, but one of which we are becoming increasingly certain, that this affection has greatly diminished of late years amongst the children of the middle and upper classes of this country; and that the cause for this is to be found in the greater measure in which girls of the leisured classes, at the present day, are encouraged to devote themselves to outdoor exercises and amusements. The most common cause of the complaint is any occupation or posture which throws more pressure upon one side of the body than the other, especially, perhaps, the habit of standing upon one foot, with the other leg slightly bent. By this means, the other side of the pelvis is thrown up, and the shoulder therefore is raised, the spine being bent like the letter "S." Frequent recurrences, or long continued retention, of such a position, result in the more or less permanent elevation of one shoulder, usually the right.

This, it will be readily understood, is a much less serious affection than that of angular curvature, and is not followed by such dangerous results. As a rule, the deformity attracts attention before the change is irremediable, and then treatment can often be successfully employed. This, in slight cases, consists of massage, or galvanism, or both combined, or of muscular exercises, all of course designed towards increasing the strength of the affected muscles. In more advanced cases, besides this treatment, it is usually necessary to adjust some mechanical instrument, the principle of which is a band of steel, taking its support from the hips, and having attached to it a crutch fitting into the arm-pit of the affected side, so as to raise this to the level of the other. In hospital practice the same result is secured by a plaster of Paris jacket, fitted to the figure while the patient is suspended by the arms from the floor, by which means, of course, the spine is straightened.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Friday, June 1st, at 5 p.m. H.R.H. the President was present, and deputed Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE to take the Chair. The following Registered Nurses were elected members of the Association:—

Name.	Trained at
Mary Bellamy ...	Dulwich Infirmary.
Alice Kate Hoare ...	King's College and Charing Cross Hospital.
Flora Lydia Kirwood ...	Royal Infirmary, Hull.
Georgina Emma Gordon	Middlesex Hospital.
Ada Mary Pearch .	St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Sarah Newcomb...	St. George's "
Frances Torn ...	Leicester Infirmary.
Florence Tudor ...	Royal Free Hospital.

Miss BUNNETT was elected to the post of Registrar by a large majority of votes. This lady has worked for fifteen months as Senior Clerk in the offices of the Association, and the zeal, industry, conscientiousness, and good sense with which she has fulfilled her duties, render her deserving of this well-earned promotion. Miss BUNNETT is also personally acquainted with many members of the Association, who wish her all success in her new and more responsible position.

The charming account of the ceremonial opening of the new offices, which appeared in the issue of last week, requires no supplement beyond two items, which are sure to prove of interest to members at a distance.

The first is the text of the illuminated address presented to H.R.H. the President, which is now given in full, with Her Royal Highness's gracious reply:—

"We, the General Council of the British Nurses' Association, in accordance with the instructions laid upon them by the unanimous body which was held in the City of Oxford on the 25th July last, desire to convey to your Royal Highness the heartfelt thanks of the Corporation for the unfailing solicitude with which your Royal Highness has laboured to promote its welfare, and especially for the conspicuous part which your Royal Highness was graciously pleased to take in presenting to her Majesty's Privy Council the petition of the Association for a Royal Charter of Incorporation. The General Council, as the official representatives of the only organised body of trained Nurses in the United Kingdom, beg leave to tender to your Royal Highness the expression of the profound gratitude of British-trained Nurses for the many and increasing benefits in respect of improved education, higher status, and public recognition which they derive from your Royal Highness's continued and watchful care over their interests."

Princess Christian said, "I wish to assure you of the sincere gratification that it gives me to open this Institution. I am deeply sensible of the kind expressions contained in your address. You are aware of the great interest I take in this institution; it is a pride and a pleasure to me to assist in promoting its welfare. Your kind words will stimulate me to fresh efforts, and I will spare neither time nor trouble to do everything in my power for the Association. I trust the work carried on here will be more and more fruitful of good to those in whose interests it has been undertaken. I now declare the offices and club-room open."

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