

membering that the first great difficulty to be overcome is the tendency to sickness, and that any fluid taken by the mouth will keep up the irritability of the stomach, and so tend to perpetuate the exhausting vomiting. It is also a great mistake to give ice to a patient, because this tends first to contract, and, when the cold passes off, to dilate the blood vessels of the mouth, with the production, therefore, of increased thirst and discomfort. The patient should be given nothing at all by the mouth for at least six hours. After that, some operators allow the patient to wash out her mouth with warm water, which will relieve the thirst without doing any harm. The majority of the best operators do not allow anything to be swallowed for twenty-four, or, if there be sickness, even for thirty, hours or longer. But, of course, there are hardly two cases alike, and although all are nursed upon the same fixed principles, the details have to be varied very considerably according to the special characteristics of the patient, or the particular symptoms which she may develop.

For example, in some cases, the patient will vomit, or retch, almost incessantly for many hours, and become extremely exhausted—bringing up, at last, perhaps, blood-stained greenish fluid, which is almost pure bile. Then, it is clear that a physiological process, which is of the first importance in the conservation of health, has been materially interfered with. The Nurse will remember that the bile is poured into the small intestine through the bile duct passing from the liver, and that the contraction of the intestine which carries the food onwards in its course is invariably downwards in the course of the gut; and that the "peristaltic action," as it is called, does not normally pass upwards to the stomach, nor up the gullet to the mouth. But when, in the course of prolonged vomiting, this regurgitation movement has expelled the contents of the stomach back into the mouth instead of onwards into the intestine, the muscles of the intestine also tend to act in the reverse direction to the ordinary, and so to regurgitate the contents of the intestine, including the bile, back into the stomach.

As the Nurse will understand, this is a fact of great gravity to the patient; and how grave it is can be most clearly comprehended by those Nurses who have seen what is termed "fæcal vomiting" take place in cases of very dangerous, because complete and prolonged, obstruction of the bowel; the intestines, in fact, unable to propel their contents in the ordinary direction, have reversed their peristaltic action and regurgitated the fæcal contents back through the bowel into the stomach.

CALLARD'S IVORY JELLY for INVALIDS. This jelly is made from pulverized IVORY; is rich in phosphates, and bone salts. Very delicate in flavour, cooling, refreshing, strengthening. No sick room should be without it. In half-pint jars, 1s. 6d. each; post free, 1s. 10½d. Callard & Callard, 1, Queen's Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



A detailed account of the Grand Bazaar will be found in another column, but again the Secretary desires to tender most grateful thanks to all those Members and friends who so generously contributed towards the furnishing of the stalls, and in addition must express sincere gratitude for the warm support accorded to the Bazaar by those Members on whose behalf H.R.H. the President and the other ladies of the Bazaar Committee worked so untiringly. It is hoped that a more intimate interest in the noble objects and work of the Association will now be aroused and the result be an immense expansion of its sphere of influence.

The adjourned Special Meeting of the Executive Committee took place on Thursday, December 13th, at 5 p.m., at which several Medical men and about forty Registered Nurses were elected Members.

A limited number of copies of the paper on "The Progress of Nursing," by H.R.H. the President, signed with Her Royal Highness' autograph, can be obtained from the Secretary, price 1s. Copies of the Charter and Byelaws, in pamphlet form, price 6d., are also to be obtained from the Offices, 17, Old Cavendish Street.

An error occurred in the report of Nurses registered by the Board, in the issue of 1st December: Beatrice, should have been Barbara, Cruickshank.

It is a great pleasure to announce that Miss L. Seidler, who has worked for five years as District Nurse at Chiswick, making an average of over 4,000 visits per annum, has been presented with a Christmas present of £10, the proceeds of a volunteer collection among her poorer neighbours among whom she labours so devotedly.

Miss M. Van der Ben has now obtained 439 votes for the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney, but if she is to be successful at the May Election, it behoves all her friends to exert their utmost efforts on her behalf, as the lowest number of votes requisite for success is from 1,250 to 1,300.

On and after January the 1st, the Fee for Registration will be £1 1s. instead of 10s., so that it would be advisable for all Nurses who are eligible to forward their application papers at an early date.

It is also greatly to be desired that all Nurses who register will, at the same time, apply for membership, and thus contribute to the maintenance of the Association and its excellent objects.

NOTICE.—A valuable diamond fly brooch was lost about 4 p.m. on December 7th, in the Ladies' Cloak Room at the Grafton Galleries. It was last seen on the dressing table. Any one having found the same is requested to communicate with the Secretary at the Offices, 17, Old Cavendish Street. *Description:* Plain gold stem like a safety pin, with large pearl at one end and diamond fly in centre.

ALICE RAVENHILL. *Secretary of the Corporation.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)