

down and suffers seriously in health and strength from the prolonged strain.

An abdominal operation at the best, and under the most favourable circumstances, is a serious undertaking. How serious it is can perhaps be dimly understood from the fact that, only 40 years ago, excellent surgeons denounced ovariomy as absolutely unjustifiable, because in those days its mortality was so great. Modern methods and modern surgery have converted these hopeless operations into some of the most successful in the domain of surgery. But it is a reversion to barbarous and unscientific methods, to expect a Nurse to attend upon her patient day and night for several days at a stretch. An abdominal operation, therefore, should always be cared for by both a day and a night Nurse, and both of these should be thoroughly experienced in their work. If it be argued that some patients are too poor to afford such attendance, the reply is obvious, that Hospitals and Private Nursing Homes are open to all, and that in these either charity or organisation provides skilled and careful nursing at comparatively little, or at no cost. And certainly no careful operator at the present day would undertake the charge of such serious and critical operations unless he were assured that his patients would be properly attended to by an experienced Nurse.

Since commencing this course of lectures, it has been very forcibly impressed upon the writer that Nurses require to obtain more practical experience in gynæcological work than they seem able at present to gain. It is unfortunately impossible, in the form of a lecture, to explain or describe a hundred and one practical points which are of every day importance. To take only one example—the preparation of a wool plug—it is surprising how few Nurses are taught in Hospital wards how to prepare this. Some, indeed a large number, apparently believe that for its preparation a lump of wool, and nothing more, is required; while it is not too much to say that upon the proper preparation of the plug depends not only the patient's comfort, but the very efficacy of the treatment for which the plug is employed. But when one has said that a layer of wool should be taken and folded and made into a roll, and that a piece of string should then be tied tightly around the middle of the roll, one has said all that is possible, but has done but little to *show* how plugs should practically be prepared; and especially is this the case when the plug has to be impregnated with glycerine or with oil, or with some antiseptic preparation. Therefore, the writer feels convinced that there is a great want amongst Nurses for practical demonstrations in the use of gynæcological instruments and the preparation of appliances, and it would seem to be advisable that those Hospitals which possess wards devoted solely to the Diseases

of Women should pass as many Probationers through those wards as possible, and that demonstrations should be organised for their instruction.

In concluding this course of Lectures it is necessary once more to repeat that the writer has dealt only with the main principles of treatment, and with the reasons upon which those principles are founded, leaving his readers to adapt these, on common sense grounds, to the many different cases which they may be entrusted to nurse. If these lectures have been of any use in increasing the practical ability of those engaged in this branch of work, or in making more clear to them the reasons for the various directions which they may receive, and for the various observations which they may be required to make; if in any measure, however small, they have tended to increase the knowledge or improve the practice of Gynæcological Nurses, the author will esteem himself more than amply repaid for the labour involved in their preparation and publication.

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



A Special Meeting of the Registration Board was held at the Offices on Thursday, December 20th, at 5 p.m., at which her Royal Highness the President took the Chair. Fifty-two applications for Registration were considered, and the following forty-three Nurses were accepted, and their names duly enrolled in the Register:—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Trained at</i>
Allen, Jessie	... University College Hospital.
Arnold, Mary E.	... King's College Hospital (Cert.).
Beale, Jessie A.	... St. Mary Abbots' Infirmary (cert.).
Cameron, Johannah M.	... Royal Infirmary, Glasgow (cert.).
Colman, Fanny A.	... Royal Hants County Hospital. (Night Supt., Hospital Ships, Dartford.)
Corder, Alfrete, R. E.	... General Hospital, Bristol (cert.).
Couch, Mary	... Royal Infirmary, Liverpool (cert.).
Court, Frances E.	... St. John's House (cert.) (Sister at National Orthopædic Hosp.)
Day, Edith	... Brownlow Hill Infirmary (cert.). (Matron of Isolation Hosp., Leek.)
Dring, Edith, P.	... St. George's Hospital (cert.).
Evans, Emma.	... St. John's House (cert.).
Flintham, Ada M.	... St. Bartholomew's Hospital (cert.).
Fuller, Carrie M.	... Royal Hospital, Bath (cert.). (Charge Nurse, West Bromwich.)
Gibson, Jane R.	... St. Bartholomew's Hospital (cert.).
Gifford, Grace	... St. George's Hospital, Bombay.
Grave, Grace	... Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh.
Gregg, Katherine	... Kensington Infirmary and Addenbrooke's Hospital (certs.).
Green, Fannie G.	... St. George's Hospital (cert.).
Guillan, Christina	... Royal Free Hospital (cert.).
Handel, Ellen E.	... West London Hospital (cert.). (Matron Dist. Hosp., West Bromwich)
Harris, Ada M.	... Royal Free Hospital (cert.)

ALICE RAVENHILL *Secretary of the Corporation.*

[The remainder of the list is unavoidably postponed to our next issue.—ED.]

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