

from all medicines which have to be taken by the mouth.

Perchloride of mercury is usually supplied either in the form of powders, containing: Perchloride of mercury, 10 grains; Tartaric acid, 50 grains; Cochineal, 1 grain (Dr. Cullingworth's powders); or as pastils, each containing the same quantity of perchloride of mercury, generally combined with a little aniline blue to prevent them from being mistaken for spice. One of either of these dissolved in a pint of water makes a lotion of the required strength, viz., 1 in 1000. A basin of such a solution must always stand ready for use, and no hand of either doctor or nurse should go near the patient without being first bathed and having the finger nails brushed in this fluid.

To clean the hands and the wrists they should first be well washed with warm water and soap, and, in doing this, a nail brush must be used. Rubbing the hands with turpentine is a very useful preliminary, as it removes the natural grease of the skin and saves a good deal of trouble with the soap and water. After the hands have thus been thoroughly cleaned, they are to be washed in the perchloride solution for at least a minute, the nail brush being again used. It must be remembered that soap decomposes the solution; it is therefore desirable to rinse it all off the hands with clean water before using the antiseptic, and for the same reason it is also an advantage to have two nail brushes—one for the soapy, and the other for the antiseptic, basin. Even with these precautions, the perchloride solution loses strength in consequence of a small amount of soap being inevitably introduced into it each time it is used; a fresh supply must, therefore, be prepared at least every day, and, of course, during the actual confinement, at shorter intervals. The great precaution which it is necessary always to remember is, never to put a piece of wool, or anything which has been soiled, back into the solution. Every time the Nurse has to clean the patient or change a towel, and every time a catheter has to be passed, or a douche administered, this process must be gone through; the soap and water, more or less completely used according to the state of the hands, but the perchloride solution thoroughly in every case. It is generally best not to use a towel after it, especially in the houses of the poor where an unlimited number of clean towels is not available; but, after shaking off the loose drops, to do whatever has to be done with the hands wet with the lotion. It is preferable to have a separate basin of solution prepared for the doctor's use, and it is as well to be a little ostentatious in displaying it. Antiseptic precautions are not yet so universally adopted in midwifery practice that a doctor can feel sure that a strange Nurse will be accustomed to all the details of the method, and if he does not see that

preparations have been made, he may easily imagine that the Nurse knows nothing about it, and, making up his mind to do the best he can with soap and water, may ask for nothing more. It is also an advantage to provide for the doctor's use a pair of calico sleeve protectors—loose calico tubes, large enough easily to admit the coat sleeves, which can be tied round the wrists and fastened by safety pins to the coat above the elbow. Ostensibly, these are to protect the doctor's coat; really they are to protect our patient from contact with a coat that has already been near many others. It is a safer thing that these should be provided by the patient than that they should be brought by the doctor along with all his other appliances, which have been to other cases and been exposed, one knows not how.

(To be continued.)

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



A Meeting of the General Council was held on Friday, January 11th, at 5 p.m., at which H.R.H. the President took the Chair, and 31 Members were present, when the following report was presented from the Executive Committee:—

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The appeal sent out to each Member of the General Council has resulted in an addition to the funds of the Association of £160 a year for three years.

The Bazaar—which, without Her Royal Highness the President, would have been quite impossible—has yielded a nett profit of £600. The Executive Committee, therefore, have the pleasure of informing the General Council that the finances of the Association are at present in a sound condition.

The Executive Committee further desire to express their thanks for all the active assistance and sympathy they have received from the General Council with regard both to the Appeal and to the Bazaar. During the last three months, 164 Nurses have registered, as against forty-seven during the corresponding time last year, and there are lying in the office at present over seventy applications waiting for the next Meeting of the Registration Board.

There never has been a time when the Association was half so prosperous as it is at the present moment. May we again ask you, as we asked you at the last General Council Meeting, to use all your influence to induce each Nurse who registers also to become a member? By doing so you will materially strengthen the resources of the Association.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The first duty which devolves on the Executive Committee, in formally addressing the General Council, is to refer to the brilliant success of the Bazaar which was held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of December in the Grafton Galleries, in order that it may at once proceed to invite the Council to place on conspicuous record the thanks of the Corporation to its gracious President for the daily presence and devoted labours by which Her Royal Highness so largely contributed to the results which were achieved. The thanks of the Corporation are also due to Her Highness the Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, as well as to Lady Jeune, Lady Duckworth, and the numerous Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses of Metro-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)