

want of courage to act for themselves. With some whom I have talked on the subject, I have, with few exceptions, got the answer: 'Oh, it would be lovely! but we never could do it, because the doctors would not send for us if we left the directory started by the medical association.'

To this I make a sweeping assertion, and say it is *nonsense*. If every graduate Nurse had her name on the list in 'The Graduate Nurses' Directory,' and left only 'experienced' Nurses on the other, when a doctor wanted a Nurse he would have to send to 'The Graduate Nurses' Directory,' or be content with what he could get from the other; furthermore, I do not myself believe that doctors would not send for us; they would be only too glad to know that they were always getting trained Nurses, and not 'experienced' ones by chance."

Another thing I wish to mention is the Nurses' charges. A great many people—and I am sorry to say a few doctors among them—say that Nurses charge too much. I beg to say they make that statement without thinking; 21 dols. per week for females and children, and 25 dols. for males, is a mere pittance; of course it sounds big, but let us take it for what it is. Nurses, or the majority of them, rent a room; whether they are in it or not rent goes on just the same. When one returns from a case, if it has not been a hard one, she registers again at once; she generally has to wait some time for another. I have known of instances where one has waited nine weeks, sometimes more (and she was known as what is called 'a successful Nurse,' seldom having to wait long); meanwhile, she cannot live on air, neither can she clothe herself in fig leaves. She has the same expenses other people have (I sometimes think with a few extras tucked in, as boots seem to have an extra capacity for wearing out); these weeks she is waiting she is not receiving one cent, while spending many.

Daily anxieties have Nurses had at these times, when they see what they have made on one case going, going, and yet not sure that they will get another before it is all gone, yet 'Nurses charge too much.' All I can say is, that when 'The Graduate Nurses' Directory' is started, I trust that Nurses will support each other, and insist on having one stated price, namely, 21 dols. and 25 dols. per week, and 35 dols. for contagious work. One can get an 'experienced' Nurse at any time for 10 dols., 12 dols. and 15 dols. I only hope at a not very far future that that price will be confined to them exclusively, that no trained Nurse will lower her profession by stooping to take what an untrained one can get, except in cases where she sees the family cannot afford it, in which case she is not lowering the price generally, and thus deteriorating the profession and injuring her sister Nurses, but is doing something which rests between her God, her patient and herself."

COCOAGENE.
COCOAGENE.
COCOAGENE.

A pure substitute for Tea and Coffee. Samples sent to *bona-fide* Nurses.

C. BARRY & Co., Finsbury, London.

Medical Matters.

ALCOHOL IN DISEASE.



At the present time, there are not the same extreme objections raised to the use of alcohol in the treatment of disease as were formerly in vogue. Perhaps the reason may be that it is much less customary now to employ alcohol by rule of thumb, and partly, perhaps, in consequence of the increasing temperance of the nation. It is a fact, beyond all dispute that the majority of people, in health, eat, live, sleep and work better when they take no alcohol than when they are even moderate consumers. But that being granted, and also the many reasons which exist against the recommendation of spirituous liquors to persons who may abuse them on the strength of a doctor's advice, it is still impossible to deny that alcohol, as a medicine, is a most potent remedy in cases of extreme illness. In patients, for example, suffering from pneumonia or typhoid fever, and in whom the pulse is flickering from sheer exhaustion; or in those who are slowly recovering from acute illnesses, and in whom the appetite is so affected that it is impossible to persuade them to take sufficient nourishment; in both these classes of patients, alcohol is of incalculable value. In some patients, indeed, who are comatose and apparently dying from exhaustion, in pneumonia the free administration of alcohol will sometimes effect a change which is little short of miraculous; the dry, harsh skin becomes imbued with perspiration, the tongue, instead of being brown, furred, and parched, becomes moist and white, the heart sounds become distinct again, the pulse drops from 120 in the minute to 90, or even to a lower rate, the temperature will fall, and consciousness return. Many patients who have been at the last extremity in such cases have taken a whole bottle of brandy within twenty-four hours, apparently without the slightest injury to their livers, and certainly to the salvation of their lives.

NEURASTHENIA.

This, which merely signifies nerve weakness, was, some fifteen years ago, supposed to be a disease invented in America. It is now recognised as a scientific term, aptly describing a very large section of cases, and, therefore, it is now becoming accepted all over the world by medical men as indicating a definite chain of symptoms. It occurs in both sexes, at all ages, and in every class of the community. It differs essentially from hysteria, which chiefly affects

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)