

the first line of treatment is to remove as rapidly and as completely as possible from the laceration, any poison which may have found entrance thereto; and by destroying the vitality of the part, prevent its power of absorbing the poison. It is stated that, in the operation just described, the only painful part of the procedure is when the skin is cut through, the excision of the deeper parts of the wound and the application of the cautery being often scarcely felt; this being explicable by the fact that the skin is so much more freely provided with nerves than the deeper tissues.

THE CURE OF LEPROSY.

HITHERTO it has been almost accepted that leprosy is incurable but a case, recently reported in a German contemporary is not only remarkable in itself, but affords ground for the hope that further investigations may substantiate the claim that a definite cure for the disease has been found. The patient in question was suffering from the advanced ulceration, outgrowths, and abscesses, typical of leprosy, and, as a last resource, a ten per cent. of aïrol ointment was rubbed in over the whole body. An improvement was almost immediately shown, and a solution of the drug was then injected into several of the leprosy outgrowths, with the result that these became smaller, softer, and gradually disappeared, while other nodules in their neighbourhood also showed signs of improvement. In due time, the abscesses healed, the nodules disappeared, and the hair began to grow again. The new drug is a combination of bismuth, iodine, and gallic acid, and the results in question, together with the diagnosis of leprosy in this case, were confirmed by physicians of the highest standing. So many failures have hitherto resulted in the treatment of this complaint that it is too early to express a hope that a specific cure has now been discovered. But, at any rate, the evidence of the case quoted is so complete and remarkable, that future investigations upon this new drug, not only in leprosy, but also in other tubercular diseases, will be anxiously awaited. Because, with very wide differences, there still appears to be some remarkable affinity between leprosy and tubercle, which suggests a closer alliance in type than has hitherto been admitted, or perhaps altogether understood.

Nursing Politics.

LEGISLATION FOR NURSES.

WE quote, with satisfaction, the following letter which has appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, and desire to point out that it is the most important communication for the nursing profession which has in recent years appeared in a medical paper, and we are glad to observe that the writer upholds as the only consistent course, the policy with regard to legislation for nurses which has been advocated by the NURSING RECORD, in season and out of season.

"To the Editor of the *British Medical Journal*."

"THE MIDWIVES' QUESTION."

"SIR,—Those of your readers who are interested in this question will be glad to see that early next session an effort will be made, by consent of both parties, to appoint a Parliamentary Committee on this subject. I have this on the authority of Mr. Skewes-Cox, our local member, and it is particularly gratifying to me, as I made this suggestion by letter to several M.P.'s, including the Home Secretary and the Leader of the House, on February 16th, 1897, when we were threatened with a crude and premature Midwives' Bill.

"It is perfectly clear to me that any legislation dealing with 'midwives,' apart from 'sick nurses,' would be imperfect and faulty, and our efforts should now be directed to secure a satisfactory and workable 'Sick and Obstetric Nurses' Bill.' When the time comes, I shall be prepared to submit a scheme which was recently referred to in the *British Medical Journal*."

"I am, etc.,

"ALEXANDER MCC. WEIR.

"East Sheen, January 22nd."

WE hope that when the Bill referred to is brought forward, the personal element, introduced into discussions in relation to the State Registration of Nurses by Sir Henry Burdett, will be ignored. It is quite time that the criticism of this self-elected dictator, whose interference in nursing matters has done so much harm, should be estimated at its true value.

"A SNOB IN THE EYE."

OUR warning that it would be well for the officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association to take to heart the history of Frankenstein and his rapacious monster must have recurred to Dr. Bezly Thorne after the ominous voting of the "Middlesex majority" at the last General Council Meeting, when, led by Miss Thorold, their matron, from the platform, they held up their hands against Dr. Thorne's resolution, and thus compelled him publicly to resign his membership, and shake the dust of the Royal British Nurses' Association off his feet for ever!

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