

upon the subject, but if the death-rate continues to fall, as it is now doing, there is every reason to expect that the method of treatment in question will in future be regarded as one of the most valuable discoveries of modern times.

ALBUMINURIA IN PREGNANCY.

THIS is an occurrence of immense importance to the patient, and it has naturally received constant and elaborate discussion amongst medical men. The presence of albumen in the urine, often in considerable quantities, is very common in the first pregnancy, rather less usual in the second, and still less frequently found in a third gestation, and becomes rarer with each successive pregnancy. The reason for its presence is, undoubtedly, largely due to the extreme congestion of the kidneys set up by the uterine enlargement and the consequent disturbance of the abdominal circulation. If it were due to actual disease, it would, in the first place, be remarkable because of its frequency in connection with a natural process; but the fact that, as soon as labour is completed and the uterus has returned to its normal condition, the albumen disappears from the urine, proves that the condition and cause are alike of a merely temporary character. The importance of the clinical fact is based upon the disturbance of the general health, and especially of the nervous system, which follows the kidney derangement. Patients with this condition are often attacked by fits of an epileptoid character, and these sometimes become so frequent and so dangerous as to necessitate the premature induction of labour, in order to save the life of the mother. An old-fashioned, but valuable, method of treatment in these cases consists of the application of stimulating applications over the loins, or of ordinary dry cupping in that region; the removal of blood, as a rule, causing more alarm to the patient than would be justified by the usefulness of the procedure. The same effect, in less degree, is produced by placing the patient's legs in hot water containing a liberal allowance of mustard. The measures in question draw the blood to the surface of the skin, and so, to some extent, relieve the kidney congestion and its effects, that is to say, the draining away from the blood of the valuable albuminous constituents which are essential to the proper nourishment of the tissues of the whole body.

Royal British Nurses' Association.



A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of members of the Corporation was held on Tuesday, the 24th inst., at 5 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, W. H.R.H. Princess Christian, a considerable number of nurses, and a few medical men were present.

The chair was taken by Sir J. Crichton-Browne.

The notice convening the meeting was read, and the following resolution was then proposed by Mr. Edward A. Fardon, Medical Hon. Secretary, and seconded by Mrs. Coster, Nurse Hon. Secretary.

"That the Bye-laws appended hereto, which have been drawn up to meet the objections made by the Privy Council to the Bye-laws passed at the General Meeting, on the 17th December, 1897, be approved, and that the same be submitted to the Privy Council for their approval, and if approved by the Privy Council, become and be the Bye-laws for the time being of the Association; and that if the Bye-laws passed by the meeting are approved by the Privy Council, then, as from the date of such approval, the existing Bye-laws be rescinded."

On Dr. Bedford Fenwick rising to speak, the Chairman, Sir James Crichton-Browne interrupted him, to ask whether he intended to move an amendment, to which Dr. Fenwick replied that he intended to speak to the resolution, and was perfectly in order in doing so.

Amidst frequent interruptions from the Chairman, Dr. Fenwick pointed out that although Mr. Fardon had made very little of the objections of the Privy Council the Meeting was faced by the undeniable fact that the Privy Council had refused to sanction the Bye-Laws proposed by the officials and obediently passed by the Meeting in December, and so the Association had the expense and humiliation of holding this second meeting. The Chairman and Mr. Fardon had indulged in cheap sneers at the opposition, but the Meeting and the public would understand that the Privy Council had supported the objections raised to the Bye-Laws, and no one could desire a more complete justification than that fact. Dr. Fenwick recalled the curious coincidence that five years' previously, to that very minute, Princess Christian had, in that room, announced the grant of the Royal Charter, and congratulated the Association on the success of its organisation. Yet this Meeting was called to alter the whole constitution which had proved so successful when it was properly managed, because under bad management there had been nothing but waste of time, money, and effort. He pointed out that the new Bye-Laws turned the leading Matrons out of the permanent seats on the governing body, definitely promised to them, and that such a flagrant breach of faith reflected the greatest discredit on the Association and on every one who took part in it.

The Chairmam here ruled that the Meeting could only discuss the objections raised by the Privy Council. They could not discuss the Bye-laws, because they had already been decided on.

Dr. Fenwick pointed out that this was very inaccurate and misleading, and that this Meeting would

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