

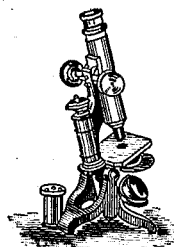
tion under way during the coming year. . . . We want to get our State organization as soon as possible. For organization purposes, take the material you have in your local alumnae associations for a nucleus, and I advise you to get to work." And at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, Mrs. Robb was equally emphatic, and said:—"The only way to distinguish between graduates from bogus institutions and graduates from good training schools is to have Legalized Registration." In the United States, therefore, organization is being seriously undertaken, with State Legislation for Nurses as its object. Nothing could more conclusively prove that State Registration is not a measure advocated in the interests of one particular party, but, that wherever nurses associate themselves together for professional purposes, there its desirability forces itself upon their attention, and is adopted as a measure in the sphere of practical politics.

#### KHAKI AND CHAOS.

It is not to our national credit that the home coming of the C.I.V.'s was made the excuse for "boisterous revelry," and "up-to-date Bacchanalia," and the letter circulated to the press by Lord Roberts, in which he entreats the British public to abstain from any action which will "bring the smallest discredit on those who have so worthily upheld the credit of their country," will strike a responsive chord in many hearts. The Commander-in-Chief says:—"I am very proud that I am able to record, with the most absolute truth, that the conduct of this Army from first to last has been exemplary. There has been no necessity for appeals or orders to the men to behave properly. I have trusted implicitly to their own soldierly feeling and good sense, and I have not trusted in vain. They bore themselves like heroes on the battlefield, and like gentlemen on all other occasions." Lord Roberts begs that his "gallant comrades" may not be treated to stimulants in public houses or in the streets, as, "from the very kindness of their hearts, their innate politeness, and their gratitude for the welcome accorded them, it will be difficult for the men to refuse what is offered to them by their too generous friends." As a nation, whatever may be our differences as to politics, we are one in our admiration of "Bobs"—splendid Bobs. Let us show our admiration and gratitude by acting upon his counsels.

## Medical Matters:

### FEAR AS A FACTOR IN THE CAUSATION OF DEATHS UNDER ANAESTHETICS.



MR. LEONARD W. BICKLE, F.R.C.S.E., in the *Australian Medical Gazette* for July 20th, 1900, relates the following remarkable occurrence, which we give in his own words:—

In the accounts of that most untoward of all accidents in the operating room or theatre—viz., death during the administration of an anæsthetic, we not unfrequently see the statement that the administration had only just begun—scarcely any anæsthetic had been used etc., etc. The death is always attributed to the anæsthetic, although the effect of fear has often been mentioned. That fear may have a much larger share in these deaths than is usually admitted—one, I am glad to say, so far unique in my experience—will show.

On June 26th, 1900, a nervous boy, about 11 years of age, who had a loose body in his knee joint, was placed on the table to have this removed. He was a particularly nervous child, and had showed much aversion to the idea even of an operation. Hence, chloroform, by the open method, was selected as the anæsthetic, and the house surgeon (Dr. Prior) merely measured the corner of the towel which he was going to use on the boy's face and then went into the adjoining room for the chloroform, leaving him in charge of the nurses. We entered the operating room together, and were astonished to see the condition of the child. There were some convulsive movements and some little lividity which was immediately followed by complete arrest of breathing with a scarcely perceptible pulse at wrist. Pallor then supervened, no pulse was perceptible at the wrist nor could a cardiac impulse be felt, and the whole appearance was suggestive of death under anæsthesia. Artificial respiration was at once resorted to, the tongue drawn out and the head and shoulders pulled well over the end of the table, whilst a hypodermic of strychnine was being got ready, with the battery, etc. There was absolute inability to swallow and no attempt was made when brandy was forced into the mouth, it simply ran out again; presently one or two slight gasps rewarded the efforts at artificial respiration, followed by

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)