

per cent. of Ethyl Oxide to eight per cent. of Ethylic Alcohol, purified by the removal of nearly all Ethylic Alcohol. This is done by shaking up with water, which will dissolve out the spirit. First decant the Ether, then distil it in the presence of Chloride of Calcium, and lime (as the Ether will have dissolved a little water). On distilling the Ether will pass over, and be collected in the receiver.

The specific gravity of Pure Ether is from .722 to .720.

On account of Ether being so inflammable, it should never be taken near a fire or naked flame. It should be kept in a cool place. And when a nurse has to handle Ether she must remember, it is not only the liquid which is inflammable, but the substance is extremely volatile, and the great danger is if the highly inflammable vapour be brought in contact with a gas jet or lamp, or any naked flame.

The Assistance Publique and Sick Nurses.

M. Mourier, the Director of the Assistance Publique in Paris, has given his adhesion to a proposition laid before the Municipal Council by M. Ransom. The proposal is that there should be erected as soon as possible on land belonging to the Assistance Publique a sanatorium of fifty beds for the reception of such nurses, both male and female, who have become infected by tuberculosis during their attendance on the sick. M. Mourier, for his part, said that the Assistance would do everything in its power to carry out the scheme with a due regard both for the interests of the nurses and for the public interests of the Assistance. The Municipal Council has furthermore decided to set aside a small plot of land in the Eastern Cemetery for the interment of those nurses who may die from diseases contracted while nursing the sick. In this way the names of victims to professional duty will be kept in remembrance, as are those of firemen and other municipal workers. It is a debateable matter, especially after reading Dr. Anna Hamilton's Thesis "Considerations sur les infirmières des Hôpitaux," how many of these nurses die as "victims to professional duty," and how many from their unsanitary surroundings. There was a time in this country when it was considered irreligious to combat cholera, which was regarded as a "visitation of God." Now we know it to be due mainly to unsanitary conditions acquiesced in by man. In this country it is almost unknown for a nurse to contract tuberculosis in the discharge of her professional duty, and it would therefore seem that infection is due to unhygienic surroundings rather than to contact with phthisical patients.

The International Congress of Nurses.

MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1901.

THE ORIGIN, GROWTH, AND PRESENT STATUS OF DISTRICT NURSING IN ENGLAND.

By Miss Amy Hughes.

On receiving the kind invitation to read a paper on "The Origin, Growth, and Present Status of District Nursing in England" my first feeling was that it would be difficult to avoid repeating much of what had already been said when I had the honor of speaking on the work of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses at the Nursing Conference held in Chicago in 1893. I trust you will forgive some inevitable repetition, as the work of the Queen's Institute, of which I am again the representative to-day, is closely interwoven with the history of district nursing.

In collecting statistics of the work since then, one cannot fail to be impressed by the rapid growth of this branch of nursing and the way it has spread over the kingdom.

If this increase is remarkable in eight years, it is much more so since the first effort to bring skilled nursing within reach of the poor in their own homes was made by Mrs. Fry, in 1845, who established the Nursing Sisters of Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate, for that purpose. This effort was followed by the Society of St. John's House, founded in 1848 with the design "of improving the qualifications and raising the character of nurses for the sick in hospitals, among the poor in their own homes, and in private families, by providing for them professional training, together with moral and religious discipline under the care of a sister superior, aided by a chaplain."

District nursing was first definitely formulated in Liverpool in 1859, a trained nurse being sent to work in a small district.

Such good results were obtained that its promoter, Mr. W. Rathbone, was encouraged to extend the work, and within four years the whole of Liverpool was divided into eighteen districts, each supplied with a trained nurse. To avoid any risk of the new work becoming a new system of distributing relief, the nurses were not allowed to give any sick comforts themselves. A band of ladies undertook to be responsible for the cost of such necessaries for the poor of their own neighbourhood, and this system is continued at the present day in Liverpool. As the work increased, a successful change was introduced by placing the nurses in district homes under fully trained superintendents, instead of allowing each one to live in separate lodgings. The value of this change made itself immediately manifest in the improved standard of work and discipline among the nurses, as well as in increased zeal and esprit

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