

the thermometer is heated, by a special contrivance of jets of flame, in such a manner that all the air is expelled and both bulb and tube contain mercury and its vapour only, the upper bulb is snapped off and the tube sealed by a blowpipe flame.

The next step is to ascertain and indicate the freezing and boiling point of water at a certain pressure, and to mark the degrees between them according to the selected scale.

A reliable thermometer is not graduated in this way until at least six months after it has been filled with mercury, as the bulb continues to contract slowly for that length of time after the great heat necessary to fill it. This causes the zero point to rise, and would consequently alter the whole scale.

The thickness of the glass from which the bulb is made is a matter of great importance in a clinical thermometer; if it be too thin pressure (either intentionally or by accident) may squeeze the mercury out of the bulb and make the thermometer register several degrees higher than it should to be correct.

If, on the other hand, the glass be too thick, or the bulb too large, the instrument, not being so sensitive, will take a much longer time to record the temperature.

From the very earliest times, the heat of the body was regarded as an important consideration in dealing with disease, and early in the seventeenth century a professor of medicine at Padua invented a thermometer by which he attempted to ascertain his patients' temperatures, but although a hundred years later (1745) reliable thermometers were made and used clinically by Dr. Haen and others in Vienna, thermometry was not looked upon as of much practical value until the middle of the nineteenth century.

Taking temperatures by the non-registering thermometers then used was, as we shall see, a very tedious affair, and it was long before physicians came to prefer clinical thermometry to their old habit of estimating the degree of pulse or rise of temperature in a patient by the sense of touch. The physician simply laid his hand upon the patient's chest and relied upon his judgment as to how far the temperature deviated from normal; this method had one advantage—it conveyed information not only as to the heat of the patient's body, but also as to the condition of the skin, dry and harsh, soft and perspiring, &c. The first results arrived at by the pioneers in clinical thermometry were approximate rather than accurate. Some of the earliest experiments published were observations taken by Dr. Haen, of Vienna (1745). It is interesting to observe his method—"he was accustomed to leave the instrument *in situ* for seven and a half minutes, and then add 1° or 2° F. to the temperature registered, because he had found that the mercury would rise as much if left longer in position"!

Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada.

The Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada is before us, and we observe with pleasure that it is eminently satisfactory, and that the Society extends its sphere of usefulness year by year. Since the last meeting Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has honoured the Order by becoming its Patroness, upon the request of the Countess of Minto, the wife of the Governor General, who has also raised the sum of nearly 25,000 dollars for Queen Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospitals, which it is proposed to equip in the outlying districts all over the Dominion.

The Board in recommending that an Assistant Superintendent should be appointed, whose chief duty will be to inspect the nursing in the hospitals, expresses its warm appreciation of the services of Miss Macleod, the pioneer Lady Superintendent, and they sincerely trust that her life may be long preserved for the sake of the profession to which she has given herself.

To the District Superintendents, Head Nurses, and Nurses the Board feels deeply indebted for the earnest and conscientious spirit in which they have carried on the work for which the Order exists. To numberless homes they have brought help, comfort, and encouragement, as well as most useful instruction in the proper care of the sick in their own homes.

New branches of the Order have been started at Picton, N.S., and at Dauphin, Man. In Picton a wing of the Marine Hospital is now supplied with nursing service by the Victorian Order, whereas before no nursing was available. At Dauphin the nursing of the newly-built hospital has come under the care of the Order. Arrangements have been made for establishing a nurse at Sinaluta.

From Miss Macleod's report we learn that throughout the year the work of the nurses in both districts and hospitals has been of a very high order, a spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty prevailing almost universally. There are now thirty-seven nurses on the staff, seventeen of whom have been admitted during the past year.

Colonial Nursing Association.

Princess Henry of Battenberg has expressed her intention of being present at the annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association on Wednesday, July 9th, at 3.30 p.m., to be held by permission of her Royal Highness at Kensington Palace. Any supporters of this movement who may wish to attend may obtain invitation cards on applying to the Secretary of the Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute. Earl Grey will preside.

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