

that some skins may be more markedly irritated, and that not sufficiently numerous experiments have been made to warrant unqualified recommendation.

The composition of the mixture is as follows:—

Hydrogen peroxide. Full strength.	4	5
Commercial alcohol (94 per cent.).	640	cubiccentimetres.
Hydrochloric acid	60	cubiccentimetres.
Water	300	cubiccentimetres.
Corrosive sublimate.....	0.8	gramme.

This mixture, then, contains 60 per cent. absolute alcohol, 6 per cent. commercial (strong) hydrochloric acid, and 1-1250 corrosive sublimate. Now, 60 per cent. alcohol will destroy *Staphylococcus aureus* in four minutes; 10 per cent. hydrochloric acid is equally effective; and 1-1000 corrosive sublimate will kill it in three minutes. Why a combination containing all three substances, but with lesser proportions of the acid and the salt, is so much quicker in its action than any one of them alone, is an interesting question of physical chemistry.

A Right Royal Christmas.

Christmas has been celebrated in right royal style in the hospitals and infirmaries. Both the Resident Medical and the Nursing Staffs have given themselves up to the amusement of their charges, and it is safe to say that throughout the kingdom there is not a man, woman, or child in these institutions—least of all a child—who is not the happier, and, in most cases the richer, for the return of the season when we celebrate the advent of the Christ-child, bringing in his hands gifts for all mankind.

Many have been the references in the Press to the hospital festivities, and special mention must be made of an article which appeared in the *Morning Post* on "Christmas in Hospital" (How the children enjoy it), by Miss Annesley Kenealy, whose picturesque pen always seizes upon the points which lend themselves to pathos and humour. In the former connection may be mentioned the true story of "Tommy," an old hospital patient, who delivered himself of the following appeal at a hospital gate shortly before Christmas.

"Please, Mr. Porter," he piped in shrill though dauntless accents, "if I let 'im cut off one of me legs, will he take me in the 'ospital?" "he" being the house surgeon who had presided over the destinies of Tommy's rickety limbs during the previous Christmas, spent to his ecstatic delight in the children's ward of an East-end hospital.

Instances of the Tommy order, says Miss Kenealy, are common enough in the hospital world. For each hospital possesses its regular child *cliente*. And only he who is fortunate enough to be "taken bad" somewhere can hope to pass the fairy portal of a children's ward at the great Christmas festival.

International Nursing News from Berlin.

A German correspondent writes:—"It is impossible to estimate how greatly the German nurses are enjoying Miss Dock's visit to Berlin, and how deeply thankful they feel for her help in many ways. Besides giving every Monday a lesson in English to the Sisters, she writes English letters for the President of their Association. Recently Miss Dock read a highly interesting paper in German about American Nursing before the monthly meeting of the German Nurses' Association, in the Victorian Lyceum, made ever memorable by the meeting of the International Council of Nurses.

"German nurses will not soon forget the inspiring words of one who has laboured in every branch of nursing work for nearly twenty years. Miss Dock touched on the progress of all departments of nursing in the United States, and made clear to us what association and co-operation mean, and her enthusiasm cannot but have a lasting effect for good amongst German nurses. Her words were doubly interesting after the paper of Dr. Israel, read before the Association a few weeks ago in the same hall. He pleads for the German nurses the same standard of training which America has had for many years, but he desires that the training and education of nurses shall be defined in a Bill by the Government, although I fear it will be a long time till we get it.

"After the reading of Miss Dock's paper, many questions were addressed to her by the Sisters, which she answered with her usual directness and patience. One lady present, who had visited the Nurses' Settlement in New York, where Miss Dock works indefatigably when at home, told of its wonderful work, and how home-like were all its arrangements.

"The President, Sister Agnes Karll, announced that Miss Sophia Palmer had most generously donated to the German Nurses' Association the costly gift to their library of the bound volumes of the *American Journal of Nursing*, a most valuable contribution to the reading-room in the new office of the Association, which will be opened in March.

"Miss Dock received a most hearty vote of thanks for her great help to and interest in the German nurses.

"We appreciate your BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING very greatly, and wish for more time to study it. In the coming year I hope we will get one in a small way, and in ten years, perhaps, it will be a little like yours. Anyway, we are getting on well with our organisation, and hope to have a yearly report out soon."

We are glad to know that our German colleagues are receiving the impetus and encouragement of a visit from Miss Dock. We English nurses have felt the stimulus of her presence also.

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