

received in regard to the knives. A large proportion of surgeons, however, are abandoning the sterilisation of knives by boiling, presumably because they find that it unfits them for use. The writer thinks that we are warranted in drawing the following conclusions:—Knives can be safely sterilised by chemical and mechanical means without the use of heat in any form. The majority of American surgeons are using carbolic acid, or alcohol, or both. Immersion in 95 per cent. alcohol has the least, and boiling the most effect in dulling the edge of a knife.

The Care of Soldiers' Feet. Dr. P. B. Giles read an interesting paper at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association at Oxford on the care of

soldiers' feet, in which he said that the easiest way to preserve in an efficient condition the feet of any who walk much is to be always mindful of two factors—(1) the feet; (2) their artificial coverings. In the feet we have to take notice of (a) faulty development; (b) vicious secretions. In regard to the latter he said:—

We are all, unfortunately, cognisant how the secretions of the toes is at all times disagreeable, and frequently amounts to a positive annoyance that is unbearable, but it is not so generally recognised that the acridness of this secretion is the predominating factor in sore feet, and that those who are afflicted with this secretion not only blister easily, but create soft corns of a most intractable form.

In regard to the artificial covering of the feet, socks must be thick, of wool, and have natural-shaped toes. Cotton socks are fatal; they are thin, non-elastic, very absorbent, and with moist feet soon become a veritable sponge. Wool, on the other hand, can be made thick, are elastic, and when covered with perspiration will, if exposed to the air and sun, quickly dry, can be beaten and well rubbed, if washing them is impossible, and come out daily fairly fresh.

As to special treatment, the speaker, as the result of many years' experience, advocated in the case of moist feet, the routine washing, followed by pickling in a solution of salt and boracic acid, which, he said, will render the most moist feet safe. He is of opinion that this treatment is far in front of ointments or grease of any kind, as, even when well fortified with antiseptics, grease has a tendency at the heat of the body to ferment, and create the very mischief the remedies are used to prevent.

Soaped socks, he says, are seldom of service, because the soap being generally of a common kind is either too fatty or contains a large proportion of alkali. If grease of any kind is used it is most beneficial in cases of thin dry feet. Powdered boracic acid is very useful.

Hard corns and all callosities should be treated by soaking in the salt and boracic pickle, and the hard parts removed by a knife, or by scraping; such cases always point to some unequal pressure of the boot, which should be remedied, as callosities are neither natural nor serviceable. Soft corns are best treated by washing, pickling, scraping, and, when well dried, powdering with boracic acid, with or without a piece of lint between the toes. Nails should be cut straight, and never round or down to the quick. Blistered feet are best treated by evacuating the fluid, and rest; nothing takes the grit out of a man more than walking with sore feet.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



On Saturday, before leaving Cowes His Majesty, on board the Royal yacht, decorated Miss F. R. Addams-Williams, Matron at Netley Hospital, with the Royal Red Cross recently conferred upon her.

Mr. Talbot, in the House of Commons last week, asked the President of the Local Government Board whether the order

which he had announced to be in preparation with regard to the nursing of the sick poor in workhouses might be expected to be issued before the end of the current year? Mr. Gerald Balfour replied that he hoped that this might be done. This hope will be echoed by many.

A gift of books from Miss Florence Nightingale has been received at 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, for the Nurses' Library. The books have been selected with a view to being of use to Queen's Nurses throughout Scotland at their annual social meeting in Edinburgh on Jubilee Day. They are accompanied by a note, "To Scotch nurses, with best wishes from Florence Nightingale," in her own writing.

An Address of Congratulation, signed by many fellow workers, has been presented to Mrs. Lionel Lucas, President of Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest, upon attaining her seventieth birthday, in which the affection in which she is held by them and their admiration for her long life of generous work for others is adequately expressed.

A kindly notice of the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, its foundation, its work, and its needs, appeared in a recent issue of the *Sussex Daily News*. Our contemporary says:—"The Home is a beautiful and stately place, as it should be, since charm, beauty, and quietude of surroundings are essential to the ideal of rest. . . . The payments which nurses can afford to make have been, as they probably always will be, insufficient to cover the entire expenses, and the Committee estimate that about £300 a year is required in addition to these payments. The annual subscriptions do not meet this sum, and it would be very regrettable indeed if such a Home for the restoration to health of women who have worn themselves out in alleviating suffering should be in any way crippled in its usefulness for lack of financial support."

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