

wonderful lessons taught by trees and flowers, and the greatest of teachers—human kindness—flowers free to be picked, to be made into chains and crowns, or to gayly decorate the nurse's table. The eyes, too large for the white wasted face, seemed to grow smaller, as the face grew plump. The white body grew brown with health. They laughed and sang from the very joy of living, for into these lives had come something which time can never take away. To me they have become so necessary, that I pray that my life may be always in their midst. The children of the poor! To the busy humanity of our city, pausing a moment to ask the result of the work at Glencoe, we can truly say it was a success. To the patient the renewed strength, the greater possibility for complete recovery, this told him of its success; to the workers, earnest, faithful, hopeful in the face of trials of many kinds—success triumphed—and to the public, that severe critic of all new enterprises, to those who gave generously, gladly, it must indeed have been a success, for how blessed it is to give!

Our little camp closed all too soon, and very regretfully I said good-bye to my patients. Through the help of friends of this cause a few have gone into the west for the winter, others keep near us, always claiming our friendship and care. The greatest of humanity's claim, is service. The helping our fellow men, in the bearing of the burden, in lifting the cross, thank God.

Out of the summer's work has come this to the consumptive poor—a new hope and belief in a recovery, a more intelligent understanding of their responsibility and part in the work, and a greater trust in the kindness in the world, reaching out its great arm to help them.—In the *Visiting Nurse Quarterly Magazine*.

Training as Teachers of Hygiene and Temperance.

The Board of Hygiene and Temperance is arranging special Courses of Training to provide experts for Teaching and Lecturing. The first series will be held weekly in the Laboratory of the Birkbeck College, Breams Buildings, Chancery Lane, during the Michaelmas Term, 1906, opening Friday, October 5th, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. One hour's lecture followed by one hour's laboratory work will be given. Lecturer—Claude Taylor, M.S.M.D. Fee for the Course £2 2s.

Full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Organising Secretary, 54, Lanercost Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.

Practical Points.

Hand Disinfection. Dr. J. H. Boldt recently discussed before the American Medical Association at Boston, this important and difficult

problem. He said in part:—The ideal condition is absolute sterilisation, which to-day is not obtained. Three methods are in use: Furbringer's, by means of hot water, alcohol and mercury bi-chloride; Kelly's method, requiring potassium permanganate and oxalic acid, and third, the use of chloride of lime and soda, all of which are imperfect.

It is important to know the possibilities in the case. If absolute sterilisation of the hands is impossible, can they be disinfected sufficiently to prevent infecting the patient during an operation? Such knowledge allows precaution where technique is weak, furnishes basis for improvement in method and criteria for judging new means.

In 1898 Landrer and Kramer showed that scrubbing the skin with soap, æther and some antiseptic solution, acted only on the surface of the skin. Later it was proved that often after so-called sterilisation more germs could be obtained from the hands than before the disinfection was attempted. This was because after the maceration of the skin by soaking, germs are more easily detached than when the skin is hard and dry. Sterility immediately after scrubbing with disinfectants is not the rule, while in those cases which yield negative cultures immediately after the process of disinfection, infection rapidly develops, when the hands remain dry or are moistened with water, while the growth is prolific if the hands are bathed in serum.

In 1886 Loew and Fischer called attention to the disinfecting power of formaldehyde. The compounds resulting from its use are wholly soluble, and in no way interfere with the penetration of the antiseptic. Solutions as weak as 1-50,000 are of value. Although formaldehyde proved to be the most speedy, most penetrating, and least harmful of disinfectants, it has not been used for hand disinfection because all of the solutions available up to the present time are unstable and the liberated gas is irritating to mucous membrane, and hardens and roughens the skin, thus perverting sensibility and favouring infection; also its use is painful on account of the formic acid present.

Recent experimentation has discovered a process by which all difficulties attached heretofore to solutions of formaldehyde have been overcome, while the value of these new solutions as a skin disinfectant far surpasses that of all other antiseptics. The process consists in dissolving the gas in a solution of absolutely neutral soap. The formic acid decomposes part of the soap and combines with the alkali, leaving the fatty acid free, and by filtration a clear stable solution of pure formaldehyde in soap is obtained. There exists then a solution which is more efficacious than any previous one, from which all irritating properties have been removed. This demethylated - saponified - formaldehyde, free from formic acid, is briefly called *v. roform* antiseptic.

The difficulties inherent in the ordinary antiseptic are as follows: Chloride of lime deliquesces, and

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