

tinguished of war bacteriologists, has recently astonished his colleagues by declaring war on the indiscriminate use of antiseptics, proving by a series of experiments that the most powerful protection a man can obtain against blood poisoning is the protection afforded by his own blood, and that the first principle observed in the treatment of all wounds should be their free drainage, by which means the lymph exuding from a wound is kept pure, in which condition it is antagonistic to, and kills bacteria. But if it is allowed to remain in the wound, it has the exactly contrary effect, as it becomes decomposed, and thus forms a culture medium for the bacteria.

It is because strong antiseptics may, and do, coagulate lymph, and thus transform it into a barrier to free drainage, closing the wounds, that Sir Almroth Wright is opposed to their indiscriminate use. The condition behind this barrier is distressing. Bacteria decompose the lymph already present, and then grow in it, and as there is no outlet, rapid poisoning may supervene.

The method approved by Sir Almroth is therefore, when a wound has been treated, to bathe it in a fluid, such as a 5 per cent. salt solution, to which a little citrate of soda has been added. This stimulates the flow of lymph, and when dressings are frequently changed yields good results.

In conclusion, our contemporary states that Sir Almroth Wright has worked earnestly to evolve a method of treatment by vaccine therapy, or better still, a method of prevention by that means. It may be found advisable to inoculate against the infection of wounds before a man goes into the firing line. If it were possible to guarantee that a wound would not become infected, a result of immense importance would have been achieved.

#### THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

Mr. Walter Long introduced the National Registration Bill in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon. The chief points of the Bill are that: Everybody from 15 to 65 years old is to be registered; registration is compulsory; those who fail to register will suffer penalties.

The registration forms must be filled in to give the following information about each person:—(1) Name and address; (2) age; (3) single, married or widowed; (4) occupation; (5) whether he or she will volunteer for any special form of labour, other than the present occupation, with which he or she is acquainted.

The object of the Bill is not to coerce people to do war work, but to find the volunteers and organize them for it.

#### CONFERENCE DAY.

At the Morning Session of the Conference convened by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on June 17th, Miss Henrietta J. Hawkins, P.L.G., presented the following paper:—

#### THE NEED FOR A TRAINED NURSES' ECONOMIC LEAGUE.

It is a fundamental principle that, for the stability of any body of workers, and for the establishment of just economic conditions, co-operation between its members is required. Further, if it is to be self-respecting, and respected by others, it is necessary that it should be organised, that it should demand a high standard of skill as the qualification for admission to its ranks, and should then take steps to protect that standard.

This is the lesson we learn from the old Trade Guilds, which, founded in the Middle Ages, are still a force in the City of London—the reason being that they demanded a long apprenticeship, with resulting high skill and pride of craft on the part of their members, and their financial stability is so secure that they are powerful Corporations held in the greatest honour and respect in the financial world.

The example of these fine craftsmen is one which we shall do well to take to heart to-day. Shoddy work is neither respected nor worthy of respect. It is a mean expedient to gain commendation which has not been earned, and to make an unfair profit. Where the lives of the sick are concerned it is an unpardonable offence, and pride of craft and professional conscience, on the part of every nurse, should make her demand of herself, and of everyone claiming the title of trained nurse, a high standard of work and conduct—not from narrowness or professional jealousy, but because, knowing the peril of inefficiency in a profession which concerns itself with matters of life and death, she holds it her imperative duty to be satisfied with nothing less than the best.

You cannot maintain high educational standards unless they are first defined. Moreover, education is an expensive matter, requiring expert teachers, and the whole question of nursing education, and the lines upon which it should be organised, require studying and arranging in the light of modern knowledge.

It is unquestionable that nursing education has suffered in efficiency because its financial basis is so unsound, and that probationers have so few educational rights because they pay nothing for their training, though it is true they give a large amount of service which, from being absolutely unskilled, becomes increasingly valuable in the third year, and especially in the fourth year's work, now usually demanded.

Economics—or political economy—is briefly "the science which treats of the nature of wealth

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