

"THE British Nurses' Association was founded with the object of placing on a register all fully qualified Nurses who have received training for a period of three years. Such a period of training does not signify that a Nurse has been a Probationer for that period, but that she has been trained and under the supervision of one institution or association for the full time. Thus the Nurses working under the Nightingale Fund are eligible to be registered, as, although they may be trained for one year only in St. Thomas's Hospital, they are for the two following years under the direction of the Nightingale Committee, and are bound for that time to take such posts as may be offered them."

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"THE same applies to all Nurses who are trained by a recognised institution and who have served for three years under it. It is hoped that a Register will have the effect of preventing the 'free lances' of the profession, who at present, after a period of three or six months' experience, proclaim themselves 'Trained Nurses,' at whose hands the public are often sufferers from ignorance, and through whose mistakes the body of Trained Nurses, as a whole, are not unfrequently condemned. Cases have been brought to our notice in private Nursing of a Trained (?) Nurse being found capable of applying a cold pack over the patient's night clothing! of another (Nurse) unable properly to take a pulse or respiration, although she had been Nursing for a private institution for years; and lately one who had been employed in a responsible post for three years, and was a certificated midwife, on being sent for proper training took a temperature for the first time!"

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"AFTER hearing countless such almost incredible instances of bad training, it is needless to say that a Register for Nurses will be an immense boon to the public once fairly at work and with the co-operation of those Matrons, and of the medical men who are connected with all the great hospitals and infirmaries which have done such noble work in training. It will interest Nurses to know that our Patron, H.R.H. Princess Christian, takes a very warm interest in the work of the British Nurses' Association. Some of our Nurses were present at the large meeting held in St. George's Hall in February, and they must have heard with grateful admiration the words of sympathy for Nurses with which it was opened by Her Royal Highness. Such words should raise a sense of responsibility in every Nurse as well as the question—Are we worthy of our high calling? It is well always to remember that no association or society can be successful unless each individual Nurse is working in the most thorough way possible, making out of difficulties opportunities for faithful endeavour, and never allowing her early ideal of the Nursing life to fade from her view."

THERE is a short, but excellent article in *Nursing Notes*, of July 1st, from Mr. Lawson Tait, the well-known surgeon for abdominal operations. He begins by saying that he "hates" sponges, and he repeats the statement several times, in which, feeling most Nurses will cordially agree with him; for who does not know the difficulty of cleaning sponges after an operation? He lays special stress upon their "danger," because of the difficulty of cleansing a sponge when it has been once soiled. He has a word to say about their expense, and tells how the grateful husband of a patient once obtained for him a hundred and twenty sponges direct from the Levant. They cost him £85, and were the most useless and the worst he ever had!

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HIS mode of cleaning sponges is very practical. They are first thoroughly well washed in *warm* water, then put for some hours in an earthenware bowl, in a two per cent. solution of muriatic acid, to dissolve the bulk of the sand which they contain, and partially bleach them. Two or three soakings in such a mixture are given, then they are well washed in *warm* water, thoroughly dried, and hung up in muslin bags from the ceiling, till required for use. A little carbolic acid is put in the last water, because the odour keeps off moths, not because Mr. Tait believes in antiseptics, because he does not do so, but trusts to absolute and strictest cleanliness.

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HE shows that after using a sponge in an operation, the blood clots along the canals, and if it is then put in *hot* water, this clot is hardened and cannot be got away at all. All sponges, therefore, which have been used to soak up blood must be put into *cold* water, with a good deal of ammonia, or potash, or common washing soda in it. They should be kept in this for twelve hours, then placed in a weaker and fresh solution of the same, and after that, washed again and again in cold water till the water comes away *absolutely clear*. They should then be dried and hung up till required for use again. Altogether, the article is full of the most useful practical hints about what seems a small, but is really a most important subject, and I should advise any of my readers who can procure a copy of the paper in question, to read and digest it carefully, though I think I have given the essential points.

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THERE is nothing so pathetic in the world as the helpless suffering of little children, nothing which appeals more strongly to all that is best and noblest in human nature, and it is, therefore, not to be wondered at that one of the greatest successes of the season should be the Silver Fête which took place last week in the Royal Exhibition Grounds, South Kensington, in aid of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Queen's Road, Chelsea, and to help

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