

required. And this register system does away with individuality in this matter. The Nurses are all on the same level; the public is told that they are all the same; the patient who wants a Nurse for typhoid fever on the one hand, or for a fractured thigh on the other, simply puts his hand in a basket and picks out the first name that comes. That is the working of that scheme. The working of the present scheme is that a Nurse is wanted for a case of typhoid fever; the particulars of the case are sent to any large Hospital, and a proper Nurse is sent in answer to that request. So that the other scheme is unfair to the public, because it prevents them, or may prevent them, from discriminating between suitable and unsuitable Nurses.

7762. I will follow out your analogy, and ask you why a register system is inconsistent with discrimination between Nurses. I will take your very analogy as to the registration of governesses. What do I do? I go to the Register Office, and I say that I want a governess to teach German or French, or such-and-such a language. And what is the answer? "We have got such-and-such governesses"; they select them. If it is a Registration office of any value, their whole reputation depends on their giving you the description of lady you want. Why should we have a Registration system for Nurses simply for their qualifications; why should we not be able to make use of it for their characters, as in the case of governesses?—The case you are putting is exactly the case that would apply to Nurses now supplied at the Hospitals, where all those particulars are entered into, as compared with a perfectly irresponsible body of Nurses who have received some certificate, and are sent out indiscriminately.

7763. I ask you whether you might not have a system of Registration conducted by a responsible body, who would make themselves responsible for the character of the person sent out?—That would be perfectly possible.

7764. Would that be open to your objection?—That would be admirable, but there is no such scheme as that before the public that I know of.

7765. I thought that was the scheme; but, at all events, your objection applies to an indiscriminate Registration?—More than that; it is to Registering Nurses with a minimum qualification, the least possible evidence of fitness.

7766. Supposing (as I understand it is intended to do) a responsible body of persons is established for the Registration of Nurses, and supposing they kept a Register of the qualifications of the Nurses, what they had done, what they were fit for, and, generally, that followed the same course as the London Hospitals, it would not be open to the objections you have urged?—Only to the one objection, that that body would not have that personal knowledge of the Nurse that the Hospital would have had.

7767. Many of them do know the Nurses personally, but if they did not they would refer to the Hospital for their characters?—If one could have such an omniscient body it would be absolutely perfect.

Your Old Watch Chain, Chatelaine, Brooch Bracelet, &c., of any metal or make, if sent to us can be thoroughly cleaned, repaired, and beautifully plated with 18ct. Gold, lasting wear, silvered or nickel plated, and returned next day. Post free from 1/3 to 3/2. **Your Old Spoon**, &c., silver plated like new. Price List free.—ROBBINS, Gold and Silver Plater (Established 1855), 118, Fenchurch Street London.

Fevers and Fever Nursing.*

By FREDK. F. CAIGER, M.D.,
Medical Superintendent of the South-Western Fever Hospital.

PART II.

(Continued from page 258.)

UNFORTUNATELY in the majority of severe cases, these measures are not sufficient, and the much desired sleep remains a stranger. My own practice is never, if possible, to allow a patient to have two bad nights running; on the second night, if the employment of cold or tepid sponging is of no avail, I then endeavour to induce sleep by means of some hypnotic.

In some cases, the question as to what extent one is justified in disturbing the patient when asleep, in order to administer his nourishment, is one which is somewhat difficult to decide. In most grown-up patients, especially if suffering from typhus or enteric fever, the right course is obvious; little disturbance being caused by the administration of their accustomed nourishment, they instinctively take it and speedily relapse into their previous state of semi-unconsciousness; but in severe scarlet fever and diphtheria, when the act of swallowing is, in itself, very painful, especially in young children, between whom and the Nurse there is often a battle-royal at feeding time, a decision may not be so easily arrived at. No hard and fast rule can be laid down for all cases, but, in general, if sleep is, or has been, scarce, it is better to wait an hour or two rather than disturb them, especially if the strength is fairly maintained.

Another general symptom which calls for special attention, is an inordinately high temperature, such, for instance, as that of 104 deg. or 105 deg., especially if it is maintained. In such cases it is usual to employ some means to effect its reduction. This object may be gained either by the employment of some drug, of which, quinine, antipyrine and antifebrin are most in favour, or by the application of cold to the surface of the skin either by means of the cold bath, the wet pack, or by cold or tepid sponging. In certain cases, the administration of drugs with this object is undoubtedly indicated; but there is this disadvantage attaching to them, that we are ignorant of the manner in which they act, and, in some instances,

* Being a Lecture delivered at a Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, on Thursday, April 27th, 1893.

GENERAL UNDERTAKERS.—Earth to Earth Burials, Cremations, and Statuary. For high-class WORK, the LONDON NECROPOLIS COMPANY, 188, Westminster-bridge-road, and 2, Lancaster-place, Strand.—Telegrams, "Tenebratio, London."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)