

of what is termed the *lymphatic system*, which is, as you will see, of very great and direct importance in surgical nursing. This system consists of canals like those of the blood vessels, small and large in their calibre, varying as the capillaries and arteries vary in size; which pass through every part of the body; being closely connected with the vascular system, but not directly communicating with the blood-vessels, except in two places, and differing from them inasmuch as although they only contain fluid, there is no passage as in the vascular canals from larger to smaller branches, but the fluid all passes along in one direction from the lymphatic capillaries into larger and larger trunks. These larger vessels resemble the veins in being abundantly supplied with valves which freely allow of the passage of the liquid they contain, from the smaller into the larger canals, but obstruct the returning flow of the fluid; but they differ from the veins, in that they do not rapidly unite into larger and larger trunks, which present a continually increasing calibre, and allow of a flow without interruption to the heart; but they remain nearly of the same size throughout, at intervals entering and ramifying in rounded bodies which are called *lymphatic glands*, and in which the lymphatic canals are closely interlaced with the blood capillaries. Sooner or later, however, most of the smaller lymphatic trunks unite to pour their contents into a tube which is about as large as a crow-quill, and which lies in front of the back-bone, and is called the *thoracic duct*. Passing upwards, this opens at the root of the neck into the conjoint trunks of the great veins which bring back the blood from the left side of the head and left arm, and which is situated just below the left collar bone; the remaining lymphatics being connected by a common canal with the corresponding vein on the right side. Where the free trunks of the lymphatic system open into these veins, strong valves are placed which permit of the passage of fluid only from the lymphatic canal into the vein. You will, therefore, notice that the lymphatic system is, as it were, a part of the venous system, but, by reason of these valves, the blood which is contained in the veins cannot get into the lymphatic canals; while, on the other hand, every facility is afforded for the passage into the veins of the fluid contained in the lymphatics, and, in fact, in consequence of the numerous valves in the lymphatics, every pressure upon, and contraction of, the walls of these canals, not being able to send the contained fluid backward, presses it more easily forward towards the openings in the veins. The lower part of the thoracic duct is dilated, and is called the *receptacle* or cistern of the chyle. It receives the lymphatics of the intestines which are distinguished from the others by being called *lacteals*, because, especially after a meal containing much fatty matter, they become filled

with a fluid which looks like milk, and which is termed the *chyle*. The lacteals form net-works over the walls of the intestines and send prolongations into the processes termed *villi*, with which the mucous membrane of the small intestines is largely studded.

(To be continued.)

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



By command of Her Royal Highness the President, a special meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, March 14th, at 11, Grafton Street, Piccadilly.

A meeting of the Registration Board will be held on Friday, March 16th, at the offices of the Corporation, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, at 5 p.m.

### IMPORTANT NOTICES.

The Secretary begs to call the careful attention of all members and others to the fact that the lectures, already announced in these columns, will be held at 3, *Hanover Square, W.*, instead of at 19, Harley Street, as previously stated.

The first of these will be delivered on Friday, March 30th, at 8 p.m. *Lecturer*—Miss Isla Stewart (Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital). *Subject*—“Nurses: their recreation and their work.” As this lecture is likely to prove of very great interest to all Nurses, it is sincerely hoped that the members of the Corporation will do their utmost to make it widely known amongst their friends. *Admission free* to all members, 1s. to others.

The Secretary begs to announce that the offices of the Corporation will not at present be removed from 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, circumstances having arisen which prevent the Committee from taking the premises at 19, *Harley Street, Cavendish Square*, as already announced in these columns. *Will all members kindly notice this information.*

The Secretary would again call the attention of members to the sad case of Maria Van der Ben, who is a candidate for the Incurable Home, Putney, at the election in May next. She learns with great regret that the number of votes secured for this Nurse at the last election was very small indeed, and that a *great many* more are needed before there will be the least possibility of Nurse Van der Ben gaining admission. Voting cards can be procured at the office. The Secretary will most gladly supply these on application, and earnestly hopes that readers of the NURSING RECORD will help if they can.

DAISY ROBINS,  
Secretary and Registrar.

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