

been unconsciously swallowing. She was one of a type of persons who are known as "bleeders," people in whom the most trivial accident will cause a prolonged loss of blood. She had been slowly swallowing blood all night; it had been acted upon by the gastric juice, and had remained sufficiently long and in sufficiently large quantities in her stomach to cause distension and irritation of that organ, and therefore its expulsion. I have seen precisely similar cases in other people after operations upon the back of the nose and throat in which concealed hæmorrhage had therefore been occurring for some length of time down into the stomach with the same final result. This case, therefore, not only exemplifies the fact that hæmatemesis may exist to an apparently alarming extent without the slightest disease of the stomach, but also emphasizes the necessity, in every case of bleeding, of attempting to ascertain the precise source of the hæmorrhage; and, indeed, in every case of disease which can possibly be due to external causes, of making ocular inspection to determine the precise naked eye condition of the affected parts.

We will, however, suppose that the cases of hæmatemesis which you will be called upon to nurse are those in which there exists some definite disease of the stomach, and in these cases you will understand that it is of prime importance that the stomach shall be kept as nearly as possible at perfect rest. Many doctors in such cases direct that the patient should be fed per rectum so as to secure this physiological rest for the stomach while the vessel from which the hæmorrhage proceeds is being closed by the reparative efforts of nature, and bearing in your mind's eye the condition of affairs which I have described—perhaps the round ulcer in the stomach wall with the blood oozing slowly or spurting quickly from it according as a vein or an artery has been opened up, you will understand that no appeal of the patient, however piteous, must persuade you to give him any form of nourishment by the mouth until it is definitely ordered by the doctor. When you have understood the manner in which blood coagulates upon a wound, which is nature's method of curing bleeding, you will realise that even a little water washing away this clot, and so enabling hæmorrhage to continue, may be a fatal obstacle to the cure of the patient's disease. If an ice bag is ordered to the abdomen, remember that it is of no use unless it is placed and maintained just over the stomach itself, nor unless the ice bag is kept charged with actual ice. If rectal feeding is ordered, you must remember that regularity both in quantity and time is of the first importance in the maintainance of the patient's strength, and furthermore that the injection must be given with as little disturbance as possible to the patient.

(To be continued.)

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



AT the meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Friday, April 6th, the following Medical Men and Registered Nurses were elected Members of the Corporation :—

GEORGE THOMAS BEATSON, M.D.  
ANGUS FRASER, M.D.  
WILLIAM TENNANT GAIRDNER, M.D.  
GEORGE A. GIBSON, M.D.  
JAMES MCNEE, M.D.  
JOHN PLAYFAIR, M.D.  
JAMES RUTHERFORD, M.D.  
J. CRAWFORD RENTON, M.D.  
R. PEEL RITCHIE, M.D.  
DAVID H. STIRLING, M.D.

FLORENCE EMILY BARKER.  
ANNIE GOODLAND GOODMAN.  
JOSEPHINE HAYTER.  
ELIZABETH MOORE.  
LOUISA CECILY NICHOLLS.  
ALICE MARY RAYNES.  
MARTHA ELIZABETH READER.  
MARY ELIZABETH ROBINSON.  
ANNIE JANE WATSON.  
LUCY HARRIET WILLIAMS.

Special Meetings of the Executive Committee were held, by command of Her Royal Highness the President, on Monday, April 7th, at the Offices of the Corporation, at 4 p.m., and on Friday, April 13th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., at 4.30 p.m.

The Quarterly Meeting of the General Council was held on Friday, April 13th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., at 5 p.m., an account of which will, it is hoped, be inserted in these columns next week.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

The special attention of all Members and others is called to the lectures to be delivered next week at 3, Hanover Square, W., of which notice has already been given.

On Monday Evening, April 16th, the first of the Course of three Lectures on "Practical Points for Nurses in Throat, Nose, and Ear Cases," will be delivered by R. Lake, Esq., F.R.C.S.; and on Friday evening, April 20th, a Lecture, entitled "Women Judges at the World's Fair, Chicago," will be delivered by Miss Annesley Kenealy (Registered M.R.B.N.A., and Lecturer to the County Councils). As this Lecture is likely to prove of very special interest, it is sincerely hoped that a large number may be present. At the conclusion a discussion is invited. Each Lecture will begin at 8 p.m.

DAISY ROBINS,  
Secretary of the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)