

lesson of the antiseptic treatment which was, that for the healing of wounds, and, indeed, for the prevention of disease, the first essential which Nature demands is absolute cleanliness; and consequently the surgeon now-a-days seeks to prevent the formation of germs, rather than to slaughter them by the million when they have been already formed. For this purpose, we rest our faith more upon soap and water and a nail brush, and upon boiling the instruments and steaming the dressings which have to be used, rather than upon placing the former in strong solutions of powerful germicides, or impregnating the latter with solutions of the same materials. The consequence has been that surgical wounds now-a-days are almost expected to heal by "first intention," whereas formerly it was regarded as a triumph of skill to secure this result. And, coincident with this, the successful treatment of a surgical case has come to be as dependent upon the Nurse's carefulness and cleanliness as upon the surgeon's skill. With regard to the antiseptics, their name is legion, and rarely does a month pass without some new chemical being added to the list, for which it is invariably pleaded that it can kill more germs in five minutes than any other known specific. As a matter of fact, these antiseptics may be divided for all practical purposes into two classes, poisonous and non-poisonous, and in general terms it should be, and indeed is, the desire of all surgeons, so far as possible, to use those which can be employed without danger to the life of the patient or to anybody else.

It is only necessary to remind you of the frequent deaths, which have occurred within the last few months alone, due to poisoning by carbolic acid, and that other germicides, such as the perchloride of mercury, have proved in many cases to be dangerous in their effects upon the patients whom they were being employed to protect, to emphasize the importance of avoiding, so far as possible, the use of such deadly drugs. It must, however, be remembered, that although prevention is infinitely better than cure, and that much may be done in the direction of obviating disease, that there still remains no inconsiderable number of patients who, from various causes, have unhealthy wounds, and that in these, therefore, some germicidal application may be quite essential. As a general rule, the nurse should always ask the surgeon what antiseptic he desires to be used; but when its choice is left to herself, she should always select a non-poisonous preparation.

(To be continued.)

WITHOUT KITCHEN FIRE.—Hot Water instantly night or day. Boiling Water in a minute. Warm Bath when wanted. Ewart's "Lighting Geyser" Factory, 346-350, Euston Road. Immense stock of Plunge Baths on view in new Show Rooms. When gas is not laid on the "Geyser" may now be successfully worked with petroleum.

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS the President presided at the Meeting of the Registration Board held on Friday, April 27th. A large number of applications for Registration were considered, and after two hours' work the Board adjourned to Friday, May 4th, to conclude the business. The applications from the following Nurses were accepted:—

Name.	Trained at
Emily Amor ...	Cert. St. George's Hospital.
Marian Edith Beresford... ..	General Hosp., Birmingham
Annie Bullock ... ..	London Temperance Hosp.
Isabel Carter .. ..	European General Hosp., Bombay, and Cert. Victoria Hosp. for Children, Chelsea.
Lavinia Fawkes ... ..	Cert. Salisbury Infirmary.
Caroline Haslam ... ..	Adelaide Hospital, Dublin.
Isabel Christina M. Jones .. ..	St. George's Hospital.
Annie Maria A. Mackie .. ..	" "
Sarah Ann Maiben ... ..	St. John's House.
Lizzie Annie Morgan ... ..	Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.
Amy Munn ... ..	St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Colleen Paul ... ..	Kimberley Hospital, and Registered by State, Cape of Good Hope.
Caroline Pirrie ... ..	Cert. Westminster Hospital.
Mary Ponsford ... ..	St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Edith Dagmar Porter .. ..	Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and Cert. Devon and Exeter Hospital.
Emily Rogers ... ..	Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Elizabeth Spencer ... ..	" "
Flora S. Stonham .. ..	Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and Middlesex Hospital.
Jeanie Stoddart ... ..	Cert. London Temperance Hosp.
May Wilson ... ..	Royal Cornwall Infirmary.
Frances Maude Wilkinson .. ..	St. George's Hospital.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Friday, May 4th, at the Offices of the Corporation at 5 p.m.

The last of the course of three lectures on "Practical points in the Nursing of Throat, Nose, and Ear cases," which have been most kindly given by Mr. Lake, F.R.C.S., was delivered on Monday, April 30th, at 3, Hanover Square, at 8 p.m. A most appreciative audience assembled, and the chair was taken by Miss Wedgwood (Matron of the Royal Free Hospital). The hearty thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Lake for the very great trouble he had taken and the kindness he had shown in making these lectures of the most interesting and instructive character.

The Secretary would remind all those who have already been kind enough to promise to obtain votes for Maria Van der Ben, that the election for the Incurable Hospital at Putney will take place this month, and it is earnestly hoped that every effort may be made to secure her admission on this occasion.

DAISY ROBINS,  
Secretary and Registrar.

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