

know, manages to gain her points by amendment after amendment, and on strictly constitutional lines, Mrs. A. and Mrs. B., who only know how to whisper, return home and report to Mr. A. and Mr. B. that Mrs. C. ought to be ashamed of herself for getting her own way in everything and by nothing but strategy.' Everyone who has attended many ladies' committees must recognise that picture, and what we seek to do, and believe we can do, is to educate many of the Mrs. A.'s till they know as much as Mrs. C. does of the rules of procedure, the respect due to the chair, and the rules of drafting resolutions and amendments.

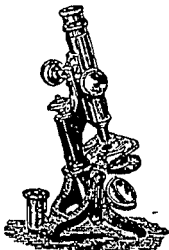
As to our programme—our plan, I think, must be at present as wide and as broad as possible; it can only be when we are formed that even suggestions can be made. But let us formulate our plan somewhat in this wise—"That we form ourselves into a Matrons' Council to create and encourage business habits amongst ourselves, and to encourage the exchange of ideas and criticisms on our methods of work."

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Medical Matters.

MOUTH OPERATIONS.



ONE of the greatest difficulties connected with operations upon the mouth has hitherto been the prevention of the flow of blood into the throat of the unconscious patient, and various ingenious methods have been adopted to prevent this accident. Formerly, it was recommended that, as a preventive measure, the operation of tracheotomy should be performed, and an inflatable tube be introduced into the throat, which would permit the patient to breathe easily, but would block the air passage, above, to the entrance of fluid. Then, in Germany, the system of "mixed narcosis" was used with some measure of success. The patient was given an injection of morphia, and then chloroform was administered with the curious result that, although he was perfectly unconscious to pain, he was able to obey orders, and, apparently, to some extent, therefore, was susceptible to external influences, and could swallow the blood or expectorate it, rather than permit it to flow down his larynx. It is somewhat curious that this system has never been widely adopted in English surgical practice. The suggestion has recently been made of a new and useful method to obviate this accident and its result. Dr. James Murphy, of Sunderland, reports that the late Professor Trélat, of Paris, operated upon throat cases by permitting the head to fall back over the edge of the operating table, and thus be at a lower level than the rest of the body, thus rendering it, of course, impossible for the blood to flow down the trachea. Such operations, then, as those for cleft palate, hare lip,

removal of the tongue, jaw, etc., can be readily performed in this position without the least risk of any blood entering the air passages, and thus the necessity for the operation of tracheotomy as a precautionary measure is obviated. How important and, indeed, how necessary such preventive measures are, is shown by the significant fact that a recent number of a medical contemporary records the death of two children from the entrance of blood into the lungs whilst they were under chloroform for an operation, in one case, for hare lip, and, in the other, for the removal of a small growth from the back of the mouth.

EUCALYPTUS IN MEASLES.

One of the many remedies most loudly vaunted for the treatment of the exanthemata has been eucalyptus; some observers going so far as to assert that by anointing the body of a scarlet fever patient with an oily preparation of this drug, not only would the course of the disease be cut short, but its transmission to others would be most effectually prevented. The results of inunction with this drug in measles have recently been carefully tested in five cases, and the experimenters report that the immediate effect appears to be the production of great drowsiness, that the disease was rather made worse than mitigated and that convalescence was in every case much more tardy than usual. In short, so far as measles are concerned, the drug would seem to have drawbacks rather than advantages.

INFERIOR MIDWIFERY PRACTITIONERS.

A most valuable pamphlet, by Dr. Rentoul, with this title, has just been published by Messrs. Gibbons, of Ranelagh Street, Liverpool. It summarises very succinctly the past history of the mistaken movement for the Registration of Midwives, and also explains the dangers to which the public would be exposed if such a proposal were ever carried into effect. Dr. Rentoul shows that this proposal, originally made in 1813, has been successfully opposed ever since, and it is quite certain now that this century, at any rate, will not see it carried into effect. To quote Dr. Rentoul's words, the aim of the medical profession is "To supply all pregnant women with medical practitioners of the highest skill; to improve the education of Monthly Nurses, and, if need be, to register such in the Register provided by the Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, but with Nurses' duties only. We hold that no more Midwives should be created, but that they should be allowed to gradually disappear as bone setters, barber surgeons and medical herbalists" have done or are doing. We advise all who are interested in this subject to obtain a copy of this work, because it puts the case of the opponents of legislation in this matter very strongly and effectively.

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