

bones are implicated, there is generally no visible distortion.

But there are various forms in which complete fractures occur; for example, they may be *simple*, that is to say, the skin over the bone has not broken; *compound*, cases in which the skin over the bone is broken, the bone also often protruding through the opening in the skin; and *comminuted*, when the bone is broken at the seat of the fracture into a smaller or larger number of fragments. It is well to remember these varieties carefully, because we shall see hereafter that according as the fracture falls into one or other class, the differences to the patient are very great.

Now, fractures occur in different ways—they may be caused by a direct blow or by indirect violence. For example, a butcher's boy, driving in the reckless manner of his kind, knocks a child down and runs his cart over its leg; in attempting to suddenly stop his cart, he pitches violently over the horse's head himself and falls upon his hands. The child is picked up with a broken leg, due to the direct force of the cart wheel; the boy arises with both collar bones broken, the violence of his fall having been conveyed through his forearms and arms to the clavicles. Or the fracture may be caused by indirect violence in another way, the most common example of which is seen in a man who slips upon a piece of orange peel, and, instead of falling gracefully forward or backward, makes a violent attempt to save himself, bringing all the muscles of the thigh into violent action, with the result that a sudden snap is heard and he falls down. On being raised it is found that he cannot stand on one or other leg, its patella or knee bone having been cracked right across the centre by the powerful muscles attached to it, which have snapped it in fact across the hard ends of the thigh and leg bones exactly as one snaps a piece of wood across one's knee. Or, again, a man drops from a ladder, alighting on his feet, yet falls down in a heap, unconscious, and finally dies; and it is found that the base of his skull has been fractured by *contre-coup*, the force of the fall being conveyed by the lower limbs and spinal column, and spending itself where the junction of the latter and the skull bones take place.

The signs of an ordinary fracture are usually so simple that they cannot be misunderstood for anything else. There is first a distinct crack heard and felt by the patient, followed by severe pain at the seat of injury, inability to move the limb, and marked distortion of its shape. On touching it, and attempting to straighten the limb, a crackling, grating sound is heard, which is termed *crepitus*, and which is due to the rubbing of the broken ends together.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE Quarterly Meeting of the General Council was held at 20, Hanover Square, W., on Friday, January 12th, 1894, at 5 p.m., Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH in the Chair. The notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Hon. Secretary, Dr. BEZLY THORNE, read the following report:—

The Executive Committee have much pleasure in drawing the attention of the General Council to the fact, that among the names recently inscribed on the Register, are those of

Mrs. DACRE CRAVEN,

Mrs. COSTER, Matron of St. George's Hospital,

Miss WEDGEWOOD, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, And the Matrons of Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin, and of the Bristol Royal Infirmary; and also to the fact that the authorities of the Sussex County Hospital have taken a new and important departure in deciding that a portion of their fees shall be returned to such of their Nurses who, having completed the prescribed curriculum of three years' training in the School attached to that Hospital, succeed in satisfying the conditions and scrutiny of the Registration Board, and in becoming inscribed on the Register of this Corporation.

The Executive Committee have the honour to inform the General Council that the Annual Meeting, convened at Oxford, on July 24th last, conveyed to H.R.H. the President the heartfelt gratitude of British Nurses for her great efforts to bring about an improvement in their profession, and resolved to request the General Council to prepare and have suitably engrossed for presentation to Her Royal Highness a resolution to that effect.

The Executive Committee have much pleasure in recommending the General Council to bestow the Helena Medal for the year 1893—a distinction which may be awarded for services rendered to the cause of Nursing—on Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, in recognition of the energy and ability with which that lady has laboured to advance the welfare of the Corporation and of the Nursing profession generally, and of the conspicuous success with which she filled the position of a Commissioner to the World's Fair at Chicago.

The Annual Conversazione of the Corporation was held, this year, in the galleries of the Institute of Painters in Water-colours, and was attended by about a thousand members and visitors. The event appears to have afforded great satisfaction, and to have proved a complete success.

The Executive Committee have the pleasure to submit the names of the following members of the Corporation to fill vacancies at present existing in the General Council:—

Mr. WALSHAM, F.R.C.S.

Mrs. DACRE CRAVEN.

Mrs. COSTER, Matron of St. George's Hospital.

Miss MEDILL, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital.

Miss WEDGEWOOD, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital.

Miss MAUD G. SMITH, Matron of the Bristol Infirmary.

Miss BRIDGET KELLY, Matron of Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin.

Miss POWER, Sister, Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

The Executive Committee recommend the following members of the Council for election to the Executive Committee:—

Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER.

Dr. WILLIAM FAIRBANK.

The first lecture of the session was delivered on the 17th of November, and was well attended. A series of lectures on Elementary Anatomy, by Mr. WALSHAM, to whom the thanks of the Corporation are due, is in course of delivery at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)