

will imagine, for a few days, we see that the fluid first becomes creamy, and then cheeselike, in consequence of the drying up of its more liquid constituents; and so, as the drying-up process continues, the tissue becomes harder and harder, binding the broken ends together, and forming a sheath or collar around the fragments. This is called *callus*, and, gradually hardening up, it becomes more and more like bone, until, finally, in five or six weeks, we find that the bony ends are firmly united altogether, and the injury is completely repaired. In fact, it is a popular saying which, as you will now understand, is based upon a certain amount of truth, that a broken bone becomes in time the stronger for having been fractured.

In connection with this, it is important for Nurses to remember that some people's bones take much longer to heal than others, just as some people recover very much better from illness than other people do; or as two identical wounds in two separate people will heal in very different spaces of time. The bones of pregnant women, for example, generally unite very slowly or badly, the reason for which may be that the earthy salts of their diet are being used up by Nature in the formation of the foetal frame. And, for the same reason, some women in this condition suffer from a disease of the bones known as osteo-malacia, in which the bones become so soft that the slightest injury may cause them to fracture. This illustrates a very important factor in the progress of diseases, which is popularly termed the *constitution* of the individual. So we sometimes find that after being in splints for the ordinary time, a bone is discovered to have united very badly, or not at all, in consequence of the patient's general health being impaired, or of his possession of some constitutional taint. Now the nursing of a fracture, in view of the facts which we have just considered, is seen to be a very simple matter, and to consist in keeping the injured limb at perfect rest; being careful that the bandages never become too tight, and that in the event of swelling of the limb occurring below the bandages, the fact shall be reported at once to the doctor, because this shows that the pressure of the bandages on the vessels of the limb has become too great. With regard to compound fractures, the first essential is to close the wound in the skin; and if the nurse should see the case before the doctor can arrive, she could do no harm, and might do much good, by placing a piece of cotton-wool over the wound, and pressing it firmly with her finger until the blood clots into the cotton-wool so as to form an artificial coating, and thus prevent the further ingress of air to the deeper tissues. If the blood from the wound be excessive, as, for example, it will be if a large artery be torn, the surgeon will, of course, require to take active

measures for its treatment; but in ordinary cases where there is only a little oozing, the skin wound can be closed at once and with perfect safety by the simple manoeuvre suggested, or if the materials are at hand, by placing upon the wound a little pledget of lint soaked in collodion, and applying a couple of strips of strapping over this.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE adjourned meeting of the General Council was held on Wednesday, Jan. 24th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., at 5 p.m.

A meeting of the Registration Board will be held on Friday, January 26th, at the Offices of the Association, at 5 p.m.

Four of the lectures on "Elementary Anatomy," which Mr. W. T. WALSHAM is so kindly giving on Wednesday evenings, at 3, Hanover Square, are finished, and the last two which will complete the course will be delivered on Wednesday, January 31st, and Thursday, February 8th. Special attention is called to the date of the last, being Thursday instead of Wednesday. Any members of the Corporation, who may not yet have had an opportunity of attending these lectures, are invited to endeavour to do so, as they are most interesting and instructive, and illustrated by specimens and diagrams of every description, the lecturer having spared no pains in making the course a most valuable one for all Nurses to attend.

The Secretary wishes to inform all members that the usual annual subscription *has not been altered*. She fears that the notice calling attention to the fact that, for the future, the subscription for *Matrons* would be the same as that for *Sisters* and Nurses has been misleading, as she has had so many letters on the subject. She, therefore, wishes to call attention to the fact that the only alteration, which has been made, is that the subscription for all *Matrons* and *Lady Superintendents* will, for the future, be 5s. only.

The Secretary further wishes to inform all those Nurses, who have been recently registered, that the delay in sending them their Registration Certificates has been caused by the fact that the regulations for Registration, which have been under careful revision, have only just been passed for circulation, and without these the certificates could not be sent out. It is now hoped, however, to forward them very shortly.

DAISY ROBINS,
Secretary and Registrar.

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