

been made are usually employed. The practical points for a Nurse to remember are, that the sounds must be kept absolutely *aseptic*. Before being employed, therefore, they should be placed in a can of boiling water to which carbolic acid has been added, to make its strength 1 in 40. When the doctor requires them, the Nurse should be prepared to hand them according to their number—which is usually stamped on the end of the sound next to the handle—after first assuring herself that the sound is warm, but not too hot, and dipping the end of the sound into carbolic oil. On taking from the doctor the sound which has been used, she should place it at once in a bowl of warm carbolic lotion, to prevent any matter which may have come upon the metal remaining there and becoming dried.

The operations which usually follow the use of the dilating sounds, are liable to be succeeded by either or both of two well marked conditions, namely, hæmorrhage or fever. Sometimes the doctor has plugged the vagina, to restrain hæmorrhage; but the uterus being large and flabby—as, for example, is the case with patients, for whom the cervix has been dilated in order to remove some fragments of placenta left after labour, or, perhaps, a large fibroid polypus—bleeding may occur into the cavity of the uterus itself, distending that organ to a considerable extent, before any visible evidence is given that there is anything wrong, because the plugs in the vagina prevent the escape of any blood through that canal. It is a good practical rule, therefore, always to take the patient's pulse every two hours, and chart it carefully, in every case in which there is a possibility of internal hæmorrhage. The patient's colour, so far as her face goes, may, especially in people who have led an active outdoor existence, remain good, and apparently natural. The loss of blood may be concealed, so far as the patient's sensations are concerned, by the after-effects of the chloroform, or ether, which has been administered to her for the operation; and, therefore, the first sign of danger comes from the quickened pulse, which is an invariable and most significant sign of internal bleeding.

In fact, Nurses of experience soon discover that the pulse is much less deceptive and much more important, practically, than the temperature; and that the thermometer upon which so much of their faith—during their hospital training—was pinned, is in practice of less importance than a careful timing and charting of the pulse. If this, then, goes up, say from 80 to 90, then to 100 and 110, mischief may be expected; and if it then rises to 120, no time should be lost in communicating with the doctor.

(To be continued.)

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

### THE ANNUAL MEETING.



IT may be true that the English take their pleasures sadly; but at any rate they try to take their business gladly. The Royal British Nurses' Association adopts the pleasant plan of making its Annual Meeting the occasion of an excursion, a social gathering, a friendly reunion. This year the place chosen was Windsor, in response to the kind invitation of the President, Princess CHRISTIAN. Thither on the 25th some 250 members and others interested in the profession were conveyed by the 10.50 train from Paddington, which arrived at Windsor in ample time for a 12 o'clock meeting in the Town Hall. There on the platform, and among the crowded audience, were recognised such well-known personalities as Sir James and Lady Crichton Browne, Sir William Savory, Mr. and Mrs. Borowdaile Savory, Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Spencer, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. and Mrs. Calvert, Miss Beachcroft, Miss Venables from Baltimore, and most of the members of the Executive Committee. The Princess herself presided, and—with the portraits of the Queen, in the early years of her wifehood, and of Prince Albert as background—gave a few words of welcome before the formal business commenced. "I would like," said Her Royal Highness, "before beginning, to tell you how happy I am to meet you to-day in this town, which is my home, the home of my childhood, and where I have spent twenty-eight years of my married life. I hope you will have a very happy day, and one which will always remain a pleasant memory." The Secretary having read the Minutes of the previous meeting, Dr. Bezly Thorne, the Medical Hon. Secretary, read the Annual Report as follows:—

May it please your Royal Highness, since the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association last met in General Meeting the Corporation has entered on the second year of its existence as a Chartered body. The interval has been spent in diligent effort to perform efficiently the regular business of the Corporation, and to adapt its administration to the requirements of a new existence, and in thoughtful preparation for the duties of the widening sphere of public work which lies before it.

The Address to H.R.H. the President in which the last annual meeting requested the General Council to express to H.R.H. the gratitude of British Nurses for Her Royal Highness's devotion to their welfare, and the advancement of their vocation, was graciously received on the occasion of the formal opening of the new premises on 6th June.

The Annual Conversazione was held on 7th December last, at the Society of Painters in Water Colours, Princes Hall, Piccadilly, and was numerously attended. Much of the success of the meeting was due to the generously proffered services of accomplished artistes and amateurs.

In addition to the usual sessional lectures, an edu-

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