

binding. At Nurse's last visit, she found the patient sitting by the fire arrayed in this precious garment, a bright little shawl on her shoulders, her hands folded in her lap—a perfect picture. She rose and curtsied with old-world propriety, then most fully expressed her gratitude for all that had been done for her, 'bringing her from death to life.'

Beef-tea and all necessaries were supplied from the Home."

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THE *Trained Nurse* of New York announces that Miss Sophia Palmer will in future take charge of the Editorial Speaking columns of that most interesting paper. Miss Palmer is a Nurse of large experience in many branches of the profession, and she will therefore bring much technical knowledge and appreciation of the dignity of her calling to her editorial work. We wish her every success.

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It is not customary for District Nurses' Association Meetings to be of a very exhilarating character, but at the recent annual gathering of the Didsbury Parish Nurse Society the proceedings were curious and rather lively. The ball opened by some captious person attempting to turn the representative of the local newspaper out of the room, on the ground that he was not a parishioner, and therefore had no *locus standi*. Presumably it would be to the interest of such an Association to have their doings chronicled in the parish; but one infers from later developments that there were certain disagreeables round which some of the members thought the fierce light of publicity should not play. After objections to the presence of the reporter had been listened to, it transpired that he had sent a subscription to the Nursing Fund, which was promptly returned, on the score that he was not a parishioner, and *had no right therefore to subscribe*.

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Finally, he was allowed to stay, but his subscription, which was regarded as an attempt to buy a front seat at the meeting, was repudiated. Then fresh altercations ensued, and the chairman, the rector of the parish, withdrew. A lady was elected in his place, and the meeting proceeded to draw up new rules, and a clause to the effect that the Association was "distinctly unsectarian" was included. This latter clause gives the clue to all the quarrels, which it is hoped will now cease.

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Medical Matters.

WOUNDS OF THE HEART.



DURING the last ten years surgery has made gigantic strides, and whereas formerly it was thought that the surgeon could only operate on external parts, and that the internal organs of the body were beyond his province or his power, there is to-day hardly an organ upon which surgery has not claimed the possibility of successful operation. An excellent illustration of this fact is given in a paper recently published in an Italian contemporary, wherein it was shown that in cases of wounds of the heart it is possible to close the wounds successfully with an ordinary interrupted suture. A dog, whose left ventricle had been wounded in two places, and one of which penetrated into the cavity, was operated upon in this manner. The wounds were sutured, like any external laceration, with catgut and silk, and forty days afterwards the animal appeared to be in perfect health. The dog was then killed, and it was found that both wounds were firmly healed. Death in cases of wounds of the heart is perhaps chiefly due to the pressure of the blood, which escapes from the wound into the pericardial bag, and which by its pressure interposes a mechanical obstacle to the heart's movements. If, however, the pericardium is opened by the surgeon, the mere stitching of the wounds in the heart will be sufficient to stay the bleeding, and the consequent danger of pressure will be prevented. It is therefore probable that in future this method of operation will, in suitable cases, be generally attempted.

THE NEW TREATMENT FOR CANCER.

CASES continue to be reported in which remarkable results have apparently followed the treatment of malignant growths by injections of serum drawn from the blood of animals into whom fluid expressed from other malignant growths had been injected. Two cases have recently been reported to the French Académie des Sciences, the first being that of a patient in whom a sarcoma had recurred four months after its removal. The growth had attained the size of a small orange, when injections were commenced around the site of the tumour, and these were continued for forty days. In less than four weeks the growth had materially diminished in size, and within six weeks had been reduced to a small, hard plaque, while the general con-

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