

Council appointed under the Cape Medical Act. And it is of the utmost importance and significance to observe that the Council felt that such a step "would be not only altogether wrong, but altogether beyond their powers." It is curious to see how the arguments for, and against, this proposal correspond with those advanced in this country concerning the registration of asylum attendants. "The suggestion was made with the genuine wish that this class of nurses should come under authority and supervision;" but "the conclusion was overwhelming that the remedy would have been worse than the disease." It was argued "that all nurses, whether engaged in maternity cases or in any one of the side branches of their vocation, should be registered." But to this it was replied, that "to officially license anyone in a branch of a profession without being qualified in the whole, is contrary to the very rudiments of scientific procedure." It was further argued that "the possession of a certificate as a monthly nurse would be considered by the public as evidence that such a woman was qualified to nurse other cases at a pinch." Curiously enough, however, the argument which seems to have carried final weight was, that if the Council gave certificates to monthly nurses, how could these be refused for any or all of the other specialties in nursing; for example, Fever Nursing, Lunatic Nursing, Children's Nursing, and then Massage, Medical Rubbing, Hydropathy, Hypnotism, and so on, in a continually-descending scale until the rankest of rank quackery is reached.

We earnestly congratulate the State Medical Council in South Africa upon the decision at which they arrived—that to be registered as a trained nurse, a woman must produce ample evidence of a thorough training in general nursing; and we commend their decision to the thoughtful consideration of that small number of medical men who, in this country, are attempting to place upon the Register of Trained Nurses, men and women who have only obtained experience in Lunatic Asylums. They will find that their professional brethren and the public will condemn them for the action they are proposing to take, as strongly as the Nurses themselves are doing; and we would refer our readers to an article which appeared last week in the *Medical Times* upon this matter, and which we believe expresses the opinion of a large number of medical men upon this "deplorable" suggestion.

## Lectures on Elementary Physiology, in relation to Medical Nursing.

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LECTURE V.—THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

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COMBINED with massage, many medical men at the present day direct the Nurse to employ galvanism; and for those who are intending to devote themselves to the nursing of nerve cases, a course of instruction in massage and the use of electrical appliances is earnestly recommended. As in everything else, so in these methods of treatment, a wrong application can do as much harm, as good can be effected by a proper use of the remedy; and many patients who have received great benefit from the use of galvanism have, at first, been made materially worse by a wrongful application of the electrical current. The treatment in question gives, of course, the best results when the disease which has brought about the paralysis is of a temporary character. Consequently, it is in the paralyzes of childhood, or in the facial paralysis of adults—due to cold or temporary injury—that the most speedy and complete recovery follows the employment of these remedies.

As a general rule, when the patient suffers from loss of speech as well as from hemiplegia his condition is both more dangerous and the Nursing is rendered more difficult. These cases require the greatest tact and patience on the part of the Nurse, because the patient will probably suffer from, and will exhibit, extreme irritability, enhanced by his inability to make himself understood. A tactful Nurse, who can learn to appreciate his signs, will do more to alleviate the mental excitability than any amount of medicines could effect. In such cases the patient can often write when he cannot speak; and a writing board with a large pencil will enable him often to convey his wishes when it is impossible for anyone to understand him in any other way. The advantage of the thick pencil is that it is more easily held by the weakened hand than the ordinary thin form, and the writing board is preferable in many ways to the use of the slate and pencil, not only because it affords more room for writing, but also because it is more easily manipulated.

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