

into the abdominal cavity. As a general rule, therefore, whenever an operation for the condition is found necessary, this procedure is in some way or another attempted; or when the patient desires to be saved the necessity of perpetually wearing a truss, the same treatment is often resorted to. Within the last few months, it is reported that an English practitioner has procured excellent results in the curative treatment of Hernia by injecting certain astringents into the tissues around the affected opening, causing thereby a certain amount of inflammatory thickening in those parts, and therefore a mechanical obstacle to further dilatation of the opening. The treatment is, at any rate, simple, and is reported to be safe; so that it may be tried extensively by medical men in this country, and its precise merits or demerits conclusively proved.

CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE cause of this disease which is productive, of course, not only of an enormous loss of life amongst cattle, but also of the money value which they represent, has recently been very carefully examined by several pathologists. The conclusions at which they have appear to have unanimously arrived, are that the injection into a healthy animal of the serum of blood drawn from a diseased animal is productive of the disease; and that it should therefore be classed among the exanthemata. The characteristics which are invariably found are extreme congestion of the smaller blood vessels and hæmorrhages from the mucous membranes, followed by the formation of a membrane strongly resembling that of diphtheria, and which again is followed by more or less deep ulceration which takes place under the membrane. It is believed that a protection for the disease will be found in the use of injections of modified serum into healthy animals, thus rendering the latter immune against the disease. For the present, it is interesting to observe how investigations on the diseases of the lower animals seem to be corroborating the results of ascertained facts in relation to similar diseases amongst human beings.

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Nursing Politics.

IN our issue of the 14th inst. we criticised some of the statements made by Mr. Fardon in an interview in *London*, and proved that they were both inaccurate and misleading. With regard to the clause referring to ourself, we desire to point out that it conveys, as Mr. Fardon must have known, a totally erroneous impression.

In answer to the question, "But have you not given dissatisfaction by removing the founders of the Association from the Council?" Mr. Fardon replies:—

"That is but one more of the unfair accusations that were brought against us. We have removed nobody from the Council. The members retire for one year by rotation, and that was how Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is the most persistent in making this charge, temporarily ceased to be a member. Besides, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick did not alone found the Association; it was founded by matrons, she among others, assisted by doctors, who had the interest of the nursing profession at heart, and were equally anxious that the public should be saved from the danger of the untrained nurse. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick retired for one year from the Council, as I said, in rotation, and she is now eligible for election by the votes of the members."

The facts concerning the removal of the founders are so well known that further discussion is unnecessary. That by an illegal act in refusing to call the special general meeting of members legally requisitioned by 69 nurse members, in order to retain the founders on the General Council, the Hon. Officers effected their purpose, cannot be denied.

The nominations for the General Council for 1895-96 and 1896-97 were drawn up by Mr. Fardon in Sub-Committee composed, with one safe exception, of the Hon. Officers; and it is Mr. Fardon, and his supporters, who have deliberately declined and definitely refused to replace Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's name for election on the voting list, at the same time packing the Council with his own subordinate officials at the Middlesex Hospital—a job, which he may deny, but cannot disprove.

The statement that this job was inevitable "because other nurses cannot be induced to join the Council" is absolutely untrue. It is well known that the nomination, by the medical superintendent, of each additional member of the Middlesex Hospital nursing staff, was separately contested, that members representative of other institutions were suggested in their places, and that

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)