

flannel. The blanket is then wrapped over the patient and the bottles, and another blanket and an eiderdown quilt is placed over all, the patient being given about half a pint of some hot liquid to drink. In about a quarter of an hour the patient will be bathed in profuse perspiration, and is kept in this vapour bath as long as the treatment requires. After this, the woollen blankets in which he is enveloped, and the hot bottles, are carefully withdrawn without exposing him to any chance of a chill; the skin is rapidly dried under the other blanket and quilt. After about half an hour he is able to have a dry nightgown put on. We would suggest, as a decided improvement, that there should be a macintosh under the blanket, and that the patient should not have a nightgown on. He would run much less chance of a chill if he were left to cool down in a dry and warmed blanket.

#### DISINFECTION WITH FORMALIN.

AN apparatus has been constructed by means of which sufficient quantities of formalin gas can be quickly developed for the disinfection of rooms and houses. The apparatus consists of a cylindrical sheet-iron mantel, beneath which is a spirit lamp with a suitable wick. In the upper part of the mantel is a vessel in which formalin pastils are placed. The windows, registers, and other openings in the room to be disinfected are carefully closed, as is usual in disinfection by sulphur. The lamp, which is filled with ordinary alcohol, is then lighted, the room closed, and the apparatus allowed to burn itself out. About 100 formalin pastils are required to disinfect a medium-sized room. Aronson, who describes this method, states that in a series of experiments in which cultures of staphylococcus, streptococcus, bacillus pyocyaneus, typhoid and diphtheria bacilli, anthrax spores, and tubercle bacilli were subjected to formaldehyde vapour generated by the disinfectant, bouillon tubes, when subsequently inoculated with these cultures and placed in an incubator and observed for weeks, remained entirely free from bacterial growth. Formalin has of late years been so largely used as a disinfectant that many of those who believe implicitly in its efficacy will hail with satisfaction a means whereby it can be employed in the form of vapour. We believe that at the London Fever Hospital formalin is used for disinfecting purposes throughout the institution.

#### Nursing Politics.

THE Draft Bye-Laws are now in the hands of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and we have no doubt that many will grasp the significance of the new Constitution. The whole policy lies in a nutshell, and the following remarks made by a Matron of a leading country hospital sum up the whole danger: "Any attempt to place nurses in a position to outvote their matrons must inevitably result in the total disorganization of our hospitals, and will bring the members of the Nursing Profession into disrepute as being undisciplined, for no nurse can be considered well trained who has not been taught to yield obedience to her superior officers, whether medical men or matrons."

ALL well-trained nurses recognize this fact, and it has been this loyalty to their superior officer, the matron, which has prevented the nurses from our leading training schools all over the country from becoming members of their own professional Association, since the breach of faith with those ladies in 1895.

SELF-RESPECTING members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have received many insults in their own official organ, the *Nurses' Journal*, during the last three years; but the Editorial in the November number, just issued, has the proud distinction of offering them, as members and as women, an insult which we regret many of them cannot resent.

THE officials propose to issue the *Nurses' Journal* monthly; but if the nurse members believe they are to have any part in forming the policy of the journal of their own Association, they must speedily awake from any such vain imagining. We are told "there will be a special section reserved for Association Meetings and Councils, of which, as usual, full reports will appear. From other parts of the paper, all elements of controversy will be absolutely excluded. As regards the 'personal attacks,' of which our little journal has been sometimes accused, our conscience is, indeed, quite clear. Members may search every back number" (if they can get them—some are out of print!) "without finding a trace of such hostility. But letters attacking the administration have, in the past, been freely—too freely—admitted. They will, for the future, be banished from our pages no less rigidly than animadversions on any private persons. We are not afraid of the word 'suppressed.' No journal could ever be carried on under the conditions of publishing whatever letters indignant or admiring readers choose to contribute" (we should like to

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