

same upon every person; but the craving for stimulants, which is the cause almost invariably of drunkenness, is as much due to disease as the morbid desire of the lunatic to eat stones and mud. And the modern treatment, by means of restraint and drugs, has undoubtedly had the most beneficial results. It is as unscientific as it is unsuccessful to punish "Jane Cakebreads" for their continual intoxication. But a short term of restraint will often develop other signs which prove that it is the brain which is diseased; and by treating the drunkard on ordinary medical principles, as a patient suffering from obscure and often hereditary disease, he is afforded the best and most certain chance of cure.

PETROLEUM.

AMERICAN physicians claim that excellent results have been gained from the treatment of coughs and colds with petroleum made into an emulsion with the hypophosphites of soda and lime. They assert that this acts as an antiseptic, expectorant, and stimulant; that, by its use, the cough, even of consumption, is greatly ameliorated, perspiration is

diminished, and the patient is strengthened. The results which are quoted are certainly very striking; and were it not for the fact that for some, perhaps climatic, reason, the remarkable effects gained in America are not invariably obtained from the same drugs in this country, one would be very hopeful that, by the use of petroleum, few people would in future suffer from coughs, and that those who did so would be speedily relieved of their trouble. Still, there is reason to think that, in this instance, the effects which are described may be, to a considerable extent, obtainable; they are certainly within the bounds of probability, and it is, therefore, to be hoped that a careful trial will be made of the proposed treatment, in the addition of petroleum to those hypophosphites which are now so universally accepted as useful. With regard to the latter, it is certainly not too much to say that their introduction into the medicinal treatment, not only of phthisis, but of all other wasting, and of most nerve diseases, marked a new and much more successful era in the therapeutical relief of patients who had previously been regarded as suffering from incurable complaints.

A Petition to the Privy Council.

THE following petition was signed by some three hundred matron and nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. We regret that space does not permit us to print the names of the signatories. We place the protest on record, however, as evidence of the strong feeling which exists against Bye-Laws—which, if sanctioned, will

deprive British nurses of many privileges granted to them by the Queen in Council under the old Bye-Laws in 1893—but to pass which the very strongest influence was brought to bear upon the members at the Special General Meeting held on December 17th, 1897.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned MEMBERS of the ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION

SHEWETH:

1. That by the Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association granted May 16th, 1893, no Bye-Laws of the Corporation can come into effect until they have received the sanction of the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.
2. That in February, 1888, the British Nurses' Association at its formation, adopted certain Bye-Laws, which were found so satisfactory and sufficient, that they were either incorporated in the Royal Charter, or in the New Bye-Laws framed after the Charter had been granted, and which were duly sanctioned by the Privy Council on July 17th, 1893.
3. That the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, without any necessity, and without any authority from the Corporation, have now drawn up new Bye-Laws, which completely alter the previous conditions of government and membership of the Association.
4. That the proposed new Bye-Laws would give the said officials almost absolute power in the management of the said Association, and take away from the members various rights and privileges accorded in the existing Bye-Laws.

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