

blue-skinned gentleman, who had been given the drug in consequence of epileptic fits. It is needless to say that such cases never occur in practice at the present day, but the possibility of such an occurrence seems to be worth remembering. The indirect effects of drugs, in fact, are most important, and it should always be remembered that most patients have, what is termed an idiosyncrasy, so far as some particular drug is concerned—that is to say, they are affected in some remarkable manner by its administration in even small doses. The administration of drugs which cause such symptoms must be immediately discontinued by the nurse, until she has reported the fact to the doctor, and received his further instructions.

INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.

THIS is well known to be the cause of an immense number of deaths every year, and to be dependent almost entirely upon improper food. The old treatment used to be to restrict the diet to milk, but it is now known that the disease is often due to the formation of bacteria in the fermented intestinal contents, so that a milk diet only furnishes fresh fuel for the growth of the bacilli. The more rational treatment is to clear out the intestines, as rapidly as possible, and to give nothing by the mouth for some hours except barley water containing salt, boracic acid or some other antiseptic, or alternatively toast water containing the same ingredients. After the attack is over, and milk is resumed, this should always be carefully sterilised, and in fact it is a golden rule that all milk, whether given to adults or infants, should, in summer especially, or when there is any epidemic disease prevalent, always be most carefully boiled. It is also important to remember that, when an infant is recovering from an attack of diarrhœa, it is a great mistake to overfeed it. The weakened digestion is unable to perform more than a diminished amount of work, and very often a child who seems to be recovering well from a severe attack, relapses and becomes even more dangerously ill than before, in consequence of the results of the mistaken idea that, because it is wasted and weak, it must therefore be stuffed with nourishment. Peptonised milk or Koumiss, for this reason, often gives admirable results, by enabling the child to take larger quantities of nourishment than it could utilise by its own powers of digestion.

Nursing Politics.

THE NEW COUNCIL.

ON Friday, the 24th ult., the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association met at 4.30 p.m., "To receive the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to nominate the New Council."

AT 5 p.m. on the same day, a Special Meeting of the General Council met "for the purpose of considering the nominations for the New Council," at which the nominees were, of course, agreed to without demur—one uninitiated gentleman alone venturing to remark upon the lack of names of the Matrons of leading training schools on the list.

THE list is now in the hands of the members, and of course amongst the thirty medical men, the names of the clique who have taken a very active part in "smashing up the Matrons"—and by this means submerging the rightful power and liberties of the nurses in their own Association—are to be found: Dr. Alderson, Mr. Comyns Berkeley (Middlesex), Dr. Calvert, Mr. Pearce Gould (Middlesex), Dr. A. G. Davey, Dr. W. Fairbank (Windsor), Dr. Willingham Gell, Mr. Mark Hovell, the two Thornes, Dr. Wethered (Middlesex), Dr. Percival White, and the champion of the untrained, Dr. Outterson Wood. Also, of course, the name of every medical man who has had the courage and self-respect to protest against the "smashing up" policy, is significant by its absence.

ON the Matrons' list with the exception of the South Devon Hospital, Plymouth, and the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, the important training schools are not represented at all, the list being composed of the Matrons of seven Private Nursing Institutions, several Home Hospitals (all of course absolutely dependent upon the patronage of medical men) a number of small special hospitals, St. Mary's Infirmary, Holloway, which has no pretension to a training school, and one Fever Hospital. Amongst the names of the Matrons is, of course, that of "Nurse Louisa East," the untrained Nurse Matron of the British Orphan Asylum, Slough.

ON the Sisters and Nurses' list St. Bartholomew's is represented by two sisters from Sir Dyce Duckworth's and Mr. John Langton's wards, the superintendent of Dr. Bezly Thorne's Nursing Home (an unregistered nurse with one year's training as a lady pupil at Guy's), the secretary of Sir Henry Burdett's Club for Nurses, and the inevitable contingents from Middlesex Hospital (past and present), and from Chelsea Infirmary.

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