

PROGRESS IN THE STATES.

The progress of the organization of nursing in the United States has been watched with the greatest pleasure not in this country alone, but in many of our colonies and dependencies. The American Superintendents have taken the helm in the organization of their profession in a way which has compelled admiration. The accomplishment of the task to which they have set themselves is no doubt easier than that which lies before their colleagues in this country, inasmuch as American women are freer and less restricted than British Matrons. But we must also own that the American Superintendents have so far shown that they possess a much keener sense of professional responsibility than has so far been the case in this country. The nursing profession in this country is already looking forward with the most pleasurable anticipation to seeing and hearing those American Superintendents with whose names and work they are familiar, at the International Conference to be held in London next year, and we can assure them that those who honour us with their presence will receive the very warmest welcome.

NURSING LITERATURE.

In the field of our professional literature the *NURSING RECORD* still has undisputed possession in this country, and it is probably for this reason that it is such a popular and widely-read journal. There are other journals, useful as dealing with special subjects, and often containing articles of considerable interest on the questions to which they are devoted, but no other paper dares to touch nursing politics. We have again to thank our readers for their warm appreciation of our efforts on their behalf, an appreciation which has certainly largely increased during the past year. We would ask all those who value the *RECORD* themselves to bring it to the notice of others in order that its principles may be more and more widely promulgated, and its work as an educative influence may become yet wider. The policy of the *NURSING RECORD* has always been perfectly clear. It stands for the professional progress, self-government, and legal registration by Act of Parliament, of trained nurses; and from these principles neither pressure, nor intimidation, nor personal abuse will induce us to move, as we are perfectly convinced that with them are inseparably bound up the true interests of nurses and of the public.

Lectures on the Nursing of Lung Diseases.

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CHAPTER II.

(Continued from page 508).

THIS slowly increasing congestion of the lungs continues until the bases and posterior parts of the organs are engorged and swollen with blood. As the effusion compresses the air cells and bronchi they are of course unable to carry out their functions, and in consequence the patient's breathing becomes more and more embarrassed, and the difficulty experienced by the heart in pumping the blood through the overloaded vessels of the lungs becomes greater and greater until finally the heart fails, and the patient dies. To some extent, this congestion can be prevented by utilizing the forces of gravity, by propping the patient well up in bed instead of allowing him constantly to maintain the supine position. Incidentally, it is worthy of notice that this gradual clogging of the lungs is the immediate cause of death in many diseases; and that the gradual blocking of the bronchial tubes with mucus, which the patient has not the power to expectorate, is the cause of those loud breath sounds in the chest and throat to which the popular term of the "death-rattle" is applied. There are many ways, of course, of raising these patients in bed; but the nurse should remember that the patient, if very weak, constantly tends by his own weight to slip down lower and lower; and that, therefore, the support to his back must be firm if it is to be effectual in keeping him raised. Formerly, and even now when a better appliance can not be obtained, an ordinary cane-bottomed chair placed with the legs against the top of the bed, and the seat well padded with pillows, makes an efficient support; but the bed-rests now made and which can be inclined at any angle are naturally preferable if they can be obtained. A practical point, however, is that patients are not only better able to retain the raised position, but are also rendered more comfortable, if some support be given to their arms as well as to their backs. So, an arrangement of pillows along the patient's sides, or, better still, some firmer support, will assist the patient greatly.

In these cases of Bronchitis, it is important to notice and report the amount of sleep the patient obtains, because the cough is some-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)