

who professes herself competent, has received any training whatsoever, will gladly welcome information on the subject, and thus we believe that the proposed Association will have the support of the thoughtful laity. Neither do we doubt the readiness of the medical profession to help on this great reform when once its significance is realized.

The recent representative International Congress of Nurses voted solid in favour of Registration. In two British Colonies, Cape Colony and New Zealand, legal Registration of Nurses is already in force, and it is unseemly that the nurses of Great Britain, who have done such good pioneer work, should be left in the rear. But all things worth having are only won by sustained effort. It is this effort that British Nurses are now asked to make. Surely hard fighting in a righteous cause will have many supporters. It is easy to range oneself on the side of might. There is, however, something of heroism in ranging oneself on the side of right.

### Annotation.

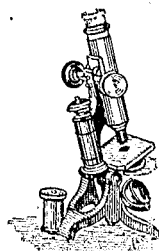
#### ONCE A NURSE, ALWAYS A NURSE.

It has always appeared to us a strange condition of mind which prompts nurses, many of whom have held honourable and responsible positions in the nursing world to resign their membership of professional associations when they retire from active work. Yet the resignation of members is so frequent in these associations for no other reason than "because I am going to be married," that we feel there must be some misconception as to what such membership implies. Surely the first thought of one for whom the profession of nursing has provided not only an honourable means of livelihood, but also an interest in life when she gives up the onerous duties of active service should be—"now I shall have time to give to public work in connection with my profession, to make use of opportunities which lie ready to hand on all sides waiting for women of experience and leisure to deal with them."

Many nurses have married in the past. We hope many more will do so in the future, but in our opinion their responsibilities to their profession do not cease with matrimony, rather they should reflect upon the duty of giving some time to work for the benefit of those still in the ranks.

### Medical Matters.

#### FORMIC ALDEHYDE IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.



The highest hopes have been raised by the success attendant upon the treatment of patients at the Brompton Consumptive Hospital by the injection into the veins of a solution of formic aldehyde. The theory upon which this treatment is based is that the antiseptics hitherto employed for the destruction of the tubercle bacillus have been necessarily sufficiently mild to cause no injury to the stomach, where they undergo such further dilution as to render them practically worthless. It is found that an original solution of formic aldehyde, 1 in 2,000, which is reduced by assimilation to 1 in 100,000, can be freely employed. A solution of this strength is a sure germicide, and the result of its use has been the extermination of the tubercle bacilli, even in cases which were apparently in the last stages of consumption.

An instance is given of one patient who put himself under this treatment apparently at the eleventh hour. In less than two months there was not a sign of the disease about him, and he was accepted by an insurance office as a first class life.

#### DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS FROM THE RESPIRATION.

Doctor Albert Robin and Dr. Binet recently described before the Paris Academy of Science the outcome of their researches in connection with their method of diagnosing tuberculosis by the respiration. Already they have shown that in 92 per cent. of tuberculous subjects there is a considerable increase in the consumption of oxygen and the production of carbonic acid, and the value of this knowledge in the diagnosis of tuberculosis in its early stages. They have now demonstrated the existence of the same over-production of carbonic acid in 60 per cent. of the descendants of tuberculous patients, as well as in those suffering from alcoholism and other forms of over-exhaustion. The practical outcome of these discoveries is that tuberculosis must be treated with drugs which arrest organic combustion, and by the use of such agents the above-mentioned medical men have in six cases reduced the production of carbonic acid, in cases predisposed to tuberculosis, to the normal amount.

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