

Notes on Practical Nursing.**DISINFECTION AFTER SMALL-POX.**

Dr. William M. Welch, in a letter to the Philadelphia "Medical Journal," in reply to a letter asking for the best method to disinfect rooms after small-pox, says:—

"Every article in the room of no great value should be burned. Articles which will not be injured by water can be disinfected safely and cheaply by immersing them in boiling water for thirty minutes and then subjecting them to the usual processes of the laundry. If this cannot be done at once, the articles should be immersed for four hours in a reliable disinfectant, as mercuric chloride 1 to 2,000, or carbolic acid 1 to 50, and subsequently boiled. For the disinfection of woollen clothing, carpets, bedding, etc., there is nothing equal to steam under pressure. All pathogenic germs will certainly perish if exposed to a temperature of 230 deg. to 250 deg. F. When this process cannot be carried out for want of proper facilities the articles named, with the exception of the carpet, which may remain on the floor, should be hung up in the room and subjected to the influence of formaldehyde. The formalin may be diluted with two parts of water and used in a large atomizer such as is used for spraying garden plants. Take one pint of formalin to every one thousand cubic feet of air-space. The room should be as tightly sealed as possible and left closed for twelve hours.

"This method was adopted by the Philadelphia Board of Health and proved to be efficacious by means of culture-tests. When this process is finished and the room opened and ventilated, all surfaces and furniture should be washed with a disinfecting solution; the floor and woodwork thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water; the wall-paper moistened with carbolic acid solution, scraped off, and burned. The walls may be repapered, painted, or whitewashed."

A LUBRICANT FOR CATHETERS.

A lubricant for catheters and for general use which has been presented to the profession by Dr. Gouley consists of the following formula:—

R. White Castile Soap, Powdered.....	1 ounce.
Water.....	3 ounces.
Mucilage of Chondrus Crispus fl.....	3 ounces.
Formalin (40 per cent.).....	10 minims.
Thymyl.....	5 grains.
Oil of Thyme.....	5 minims.
Alcohol.....	15 minims.

Mode of operation: Heat the soap and water and stir until a smooth slime is formed; then add the three ounces of mucilage (made of the strength of one ounce of chondrus crispus to the pint of water). When cool pour in the formalin, then

the thymol and oil of thyme mixed with alcohol; stir, strain, and keep in a covered vessel until all air bubbles have vanished. The result is an opalescent, honey-like substance which should be put up at once in two-ounce collapsible tubes and sterilized.

The Midwives Bill.

We learn with pleasure that the Midwives' Bill has passed through the Committee stage without any radical alterations, and without the re-introduction of the licensing clause.

On the proposition of Mr. Parker, Clause 2 (1) now runs:—

"From and after the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and five no woman shall be entitled to take or use the name and title of midwife (either alone or in combination with any other word or words), or any name, title, addition, or description implying that she is certified under this Act, *or is a person specially qualified to practise midwifery*, or is recognised by law as a midwife unless she be certified under this Act."

On the proposition of Sir John Tuke, an addition was also made to Clause 2, making division 6 of this Clause:—

"No woman shall be entitled after January 1st, 1905, to recover any fee or charge for attendance as a midwife unless she is certified under this Act."

An important point was raised by Sir John Tuke, who moved that, in Clause 3, the lines referring to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and to the Obstetrical Society of London be deleted, so that the Clause would run:—

"Any woman, who, within two years from the date of this Act coming into operation, claims to be certified under this Act, shall be so certified provided she holds a certificate in midwifery approved by the Central Midwives' Board, or produces evidence satisfactory to the Board that, at the passing of this Act, she has been in *bona fide* practice as a midwife, and that she bears a good character."

Sir John Tuke thought the mention of the two bodies in the proposed Bill was invidious, and Sir Walter Foster supported the amendment, as if it were not carried any of the women who had improperly used the certificate of the Obstetrical Society might force themselves on to the Register. No undesirable person should have the right to force herself on the Register of the Central Midwives Board.

Mr. Heywood Johnstone was in favour of retaining the words referring to the London Obstetrical Society. Since 1872 the Society had examined 7,500 persons, and last year examined 087 candidates. He thought its work should be recognised, and the 6,527 persons now on its register would form an excellent nucleus for the new

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