

quantities, probably entering through the lymphatics and small veins, and are carried by the blood to various organs, as the lungs, kidneys, &c., where they form plugs in some of the smaller vessels. These plugs are at once hindrances to the proper nourishment of some part of the organ invaded, and irritating foreign bodies. An abscess will probably form around them, and a fresh centre is thus started for the manufacture of poison, the absorption of which still further breaks down the vital resistance of the patient. Now fresh shivering fits, alternating with hot flushing and followed by hectic perspiration, occur with alarming frequency, and after a longer or shorter struggle the patient succumbs, broken down by exhausting discharges, and poisoned by the materials formed in his own body.

Such, then, are the courses, first of *simple aseptic inflammation*, an inflammation which must occur after every wound in any and every tissue, because it is the natural effort of nature to repair the damage done; and secondly, of *progressive or septic inflammation*, which is not a necessity, because it is the result of the action of extraneous factors, which, however, require immense care to seclude them, modifying, delaying, and possibly preventing altogether the natural processes.

In my next lecture I propose to explain to you more clearly what is the nature of these extraneous agents and the evidence upon which we base our belief in their existence, and their responsibility for the evil effects which they produce.

(To be continued.)

### THE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE following important article, which appeared last week in the leading Medical journal in this country, and perhaps the best known one in the world—the *Lancet*—deserves the careful consideration of every Medical man and Nurse throughout the country.

“During the past eighteen months we have frequently called the attention of our readers to the rise and progress of the British Nurses’ Association, to the causes which called it into existence, and to the results which it has already achieved, or which in the future it hopes to accomplish. Last week we were, as our readers will have observed, taken to task by Dr. A. Ernest Sansom for the statement of our belief that the primary object of the Association—the Registration of Trained Nurses by legal authority—would speedily be carried into effect, and that Medical men keenly felt the importance of such a system being enforced

and urged its adoption. In the letter to which we refer, Dr. Sansom admits that the scheme to be proposed by the Association is not yet ‘intelligible’ to him, but proceeds to state his opinion that it ‘is fraught with danger to the best interests of the public, the Medical profession, and the Nurses themselves.’ In our judgment it would have been wiser for Dr. Sansom to have possessed himself of the fullest knowledge before publicly pronouncing such a condemnation. We propose, under these circumstances, briefly to recall the past history of this important movement, and to state the present condition of affairs. It is well known that skilled nursing has within the past few years become an important factor in the treatment of accident and disease; that the more successful results at present obtained after many operations and in many acute affections are due in no small measure to the fact that the directions given for the patient’s treatment are more efficiently, skillfully, and thoroughly carried out than was formerly the case; and that the average Nurse of to-day is a woman of more education and refinement than her predecessors were. It is not surprising therefore that a strong feeling arose that Nurses should become organised into a united professional body. But this has come about in an unexpected way. Nearly four years ago it was suggested by a well-known Hospital Matron that it would be well to form a Register of Trained Nurses. The idea was after some months adopted by an official of the Stock Exchange, who was the founder of a certain Association. A sub-committee of influential Hospital Matrons was brought together to consider the matter; they, however, soon found that it would be most difficult, and might be even dangerous, to carry out such an intention under the management chiefly of laymen. A circular was nevertheless issued by this Association, offering to register any Nurse who had had one year’s training upon the payment of half-a-crown. The Matrons to whom we have alluded immediately withdrew their names, and consulted the heads of the Medical profession, pointing out the risk of allowing Nurses to be formed into an organised body under the control of any layman, however philanthropic or sincere. The danger of any disturbance of the harmony which should always exist between Medical men and Nurses, and the prejudicial effect which such a rupture would have on the interests of the sick, were clearly foreseen. The British Nurses’ Association was therefore formed, H.R.H. Princess Christian becoming its President, and at a well-attended meeting held at St. George’s Hall in February of last year it was announced that English Nurses, for the good alike of their profession and of the public, desired to be formed into a united body under the sole control of the

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