

applied it with unerring regularity night and morning; but so far as the asepticity of the wound was concerned, she might just as well have done nothing, for the iodoform was all rubbed off in an hour by the restless patient, and so for eleven hours the wound was totally unprotected. Meanwhile, the wound went to the bad, and the iodoform dressing was declared to be useless. Such occurrences are at the bottom of many of the declarations that antiseptic dressings, whilst being a great deal of trouble, yield no better results than the old methods.

(To be continued.)

### THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING in support of this Association was held at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding, on Wednesday, July 17. There were also present on the platform, H.R.H. Princess Christian (attended by Mrs. Jeune), The Lady Mayoress, Sir Henry Acland, Mr. Savory, Sir Crichton Browne, Mr. Brudenell-Carter, Professor Marshall, Dr. Parry, Dr. Priestley, Dr. Matthews Duncan, Mr. Wakley, Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. Sturges, Dr. Coupland, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Dr. Andrew, Dr. Schofield, Mr. Herbert Page, Dr. Beyley Thorne, Miss Stewart, Miss Thorold, Miss East, Miss Clarke, Miss Sutcliffe, and other well-known Medical men and Hospital Matrons.

The LORD MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said: Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I observe from the programme that has been laid before me that it is intended, if I say anything at all in regard to this subject, it should be at a later stage of our proceedings. I will only say at the present moment that I am very glad to see so large a gathering here on this occasion, because it seems to me it indicates that a very deep interest is taken in this subject. As I understand the matter, the object and aim of this Association are to elevate the status of the best Trained Nurses, and to give a better guarantee to the public in regard to their qualification. I do not understand that the proposal of this Association is in any way to give a guarantee as to the personal character of the Nurses, any more than as to the personal character of Doctors, or other professional men; but if, by this Association, or by any other means, the general character and qualifications of Nurses may be so improved as to give a better guarantee than at present to the general public, I am sure there is no one here, and no one outside, who will not hail its exertions with acclamation. My first duty is to call upon Miss

Wood, the honorary secretary, to read some letters which have been received from ladies and gentlemen who regret their inability to attend this gathering.

Miss WOOD announced the names of a number of ladies and gentlemen who had written expressing their regret at being unable to accept the invitation of the Committee.

Mr. SAVORY then addressed the meeting as follows: Your Royal Highness, my Lord Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—The cause which we are met in this historic hall to promote is one that must, I think, commend itself to the judgment and the sympathy of all. Nursing may safely be described as the oldest of the services, and the fitness of woman for the work has been in every age a theme of which poets have loved to speak, and painters to paint. But in no art—for let it never be forgotten Nursing is an art, and at its best a very high one—in no art has there been of late years more singular improvement and rapid progress. All in some measure recognise this, but it is perhaps only by those, whose duty associates them closely with Nurses and their work, that it is, and can be, fully understood. Nursing of to-day, compared with that of former years, has been completely changed for the better; and our Nurses now are no longer left to find their way to such comprehension of their duty as can be made out, but they are properly trained and educated for their office. To patience, gentleness, and sympathy, all that a woman naturally brings to the work, are now added knowledge and skill, and by this means, of course the art of Nursing itself has been raised in importance; and thus it has come to play, and must play, a far more conspicuous part than formerly in mitigating the suffering, and promoting the recovery of the sick. So it has seemed to many, and amongst them most of those best qualified to judge, that the time has come when another important step should be taken, that those women who are fully taught should be enrolled in some way into a society, should be in fact Registered, in order that their position may be recognised, and that the public may be able to distinguish those who are duly qualified, and that a guarantee may be thus offered of competency for the performance of this responsible and necessary duty. This seems to me to be so reasonable and so largely needful, that I venture to think to propose it is to recommend it to general acceptance. I have never heard, I do not know, of any valid objection to such a step. It seems to me to come now in its due place as the natural result of the progress that has been made. I cannot doubt that the Association, with such a Register of Nurses as it will be at once able to secure, will become the means of powerfully

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