

the ethereal solution is separated and the ether is evaporated off, when the eserine is left. It is in colourless crystals, slightly soluble in water, soluble in alcohol, and ether, and dilute acids. There is a salt official—the sulphate; the dose is $\frac{1}{40}$ of a grain. Also a disc made with the sulphate, gelatin, and glycerine. The weight is $\frac{1}{30}$ of a grain; it contains $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a grain of sulphate.

Eserine powerfully contracts the pupil of the eye, perfectly antagonising atropine. Given internally it diminishes the action of the heart. It is prescribed in epilepsy and tetanus. In poisoning, emetics should be given; atropine, chloral, or strychnine will counteract its effect. The patient should be kept in a recumbent position, and artificial respiration employed.

Pilocarpine is an alkaloid obtained from the leaves of *Pilocarpis Jaborandi*. It is prepared from the extract of jaborandi by adding ammonia, then chloroform. The latter is separated off and evaporated, when the pilocarpine remains. There is an official salt, the nitrate, made by the addition of nitric acid to the alkaloid; the dose is $\frac{1}{20}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain. It is a white crystalline substance, soluble one in nine parts of cold water. Soluble in alcohol. It increases the action of the heart, and is a powerful diaphoretic. It causes contraction of the pupil of the eye.

In cases of poisoning from it, emetics should be given. Atropine sulphate may be administered hypodermically. When the perspiration lessens (violent perspiration is one of the effects of jaborandi poisoning), the patient must be kept warm, all fear of a chill being avoided.

Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

As we are receiving inquiries as to whether the public can be present at the Conference convened by the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses for Friday, May 8th, at 20, Hanover Square, we have pleasure in stating that all interested in the subject will be welcome, and that tickets of admission may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary of the State Registration Society, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. The full Agenda of the Conference will be found on page 363

Wedding Bells.

Many Barts nurses will be interested to hear of the marriage of Miss Florence E. Derby and Mr. Connel O'Riardon, which took place in London on Wednesday last.

Mrs. O'Riardon's new home will be in London, so that she will be able to keep in touch with her many hospital friends.

Registration in Natal.

It is not widely known that in 1899 there was passed in Natal by the late "Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Natal, an Act to amend the Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1896, and to regulate the Registration and Practice of Veterinary Surgeons and of Trained Nurses," and that in accordance with regulations approved by the Governor, the Medical Council may grant certificates of competence as trained nurses, midwives, or attendants, or nurses of the insane, and the names of those holding such certificates are entered in a Register kept for that purpose.

The Council is given disciplinary powers by the Act, and the status of registered nurses is protected by a provision that "Any person who shall falsely use or adopt any name, title, or description implying that he or she is such a registered trained nurse, midwife, attendant, or nurse of the insane shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Twenty Pounds sterling, or, in default of payment, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding three months." Each January the Council is required to publish in the *Natal Government Gazette* a list showing the names of all holders of certificates as trained nurses, midwives, attendants, or nurses of the insane.

GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES.

Certificates are issued by the Natal Medical Council to two classes—(a) without examination to persons holding a diploma or certificate accepted by the Council, and (b) after examination arranged for by the Council to persons holding no such diploma or certificate.

A fee of 10s. 6d. is payable for a Certificate of Competence; if the candidate is examined, then a fee of £2 is payable. The result of the examinations is reported to the Council, and certificates of competence are forthwith issued through the Colonial Secretary to the successful candidates.

In relation to Trained Nurses, the Council is authorised to grant a Certificate of Competence to any person who has obtained in Great Britain, or in any British possession, a certificate of qualification as a Trained Nurse, granted after examination by any institution or body recognised by the Council as competent through its course of training and material to grant such certificate. All applicants are required to submit the diplomas or certificates by virtue of which they claim registration with (a) a declaration of identity, sworn before a Justice of the Peace; (b) a certificate of good character, signed by a Medical Practitioner and a Minister of Religion, or a Magistrate; (c) a certificate from a Medical Practitioner to the effect that the health of the applicant is not such as in the interest of patients to render it inadvisable that such applicant should engage in nursing; and (d) a sworn declara-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)