

Dr. Biernacki seconded the amendment. Many Nursing Homes needed supervision badly, but the proposal of the R.B.N.A., as he understood it, was only to register such institutions as voluntarily applied for registration. This would prove an obstacle in the way of a more thorough system, and would so prevent a real want being grappled with effectively. He thought the registration of Nursing Homes should be provided for in a separate Bill.

Miss Georgina Scott said she would be pleased for her Home to be inspected at any time.

Mr. Langton said he opposed the deletion of the clause. It was probably the most important in the Bill. He had shown it to patients, and they had said to him "We are glad you are doing something for us."

Miss Beatty thought there might be over-inspection. She superintended a Nursing Home, and, as she took in maternity cases, she was liable to inspection by the Midwives' Board. She also sometimes received mental cases, and consequently was inspected under the Lunacy Act. If she were also inspected under the Nursing Act she would spend half the day running about after inspectors before she could begin to make a living.

On being put to the meeting, the amendment was lost.

It was agreed that the Draft Bill, as amended, should be approved, and that the Executive Committee should take steps to have it submitted to Parliament.

## Practical Points.

### Moist Dressings.

Dr. Charles H. Lemon, in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, recommends the use of moist dressings in compound fractures. He advises the application of hygroscopic gauze moistened or wrung out of water or an antiseptic solution and applied to the wound. Evaporation and consequent drying is prevented by covering the dressing with oiled silk or gutta-percha tissue. It stimulates the capillary circulation in the region of the wound, and induces a vigorous blood-current, which mechanically washes it out and brings an abundance of blood-tissue to the part. A foreign contemporary, in an article on the after-treatment of septic operations, says a wet dressing soothes pain far better than a dry one.

### The Handkerchief as a Disseminator of Disease.

The *Medical Record* comments on the New York *Times'* account of a meeting of the National Women's Temperance Union, held in Cincinnati, where handkerchief shaking as a method of salute was warmly discussed from a hygienic standpoint. Miss Marie Brehm, of Illinois, declared that the fluttering of innumerable handkerchiefs in welcome to a speaker was quite sufficient to account for the wide distribution of colds among those attending the convention. Miss Brehm moved that handkerchiefs be kept in the pocket, where they belong, and the saluting be done with little silk flags provided for the purpose. It is, in fact, a grave sanitary question whether the handkerchief does not do more harm than good as it is ordinarily used. When we assume that the healthy nose does not need to be wiped we face a reasonably broad proposition as to the danger of the

handkerchief as a disease propagator. Most nasal catarrhs are of an infectious character, notably those of grip origin. Contrary to a general law of asepsis, the handkerchief saturated with disease germs, instead of being promptly washed, is stowed for hours in the pocket, with a result that can be easily imagined. Is it any wonder, then, that catarrhs are constantly fostered by a system of auto-infection? Even when the discharges become dried upon this dangerous article of the toilet, its mere handling or use by others must necessarily be a means of conveying infection. Worse than the nasal discharges are the expectorations, which so often thus find their way into the pocket.

### Radium and Cancer.

Experiments with radium which have recently been made in medical circles in Vienna have revealed a new and valuable use for this substance. Professor Gussenbauer, one of the most prominent surgeons in Austria, has discovered, by means of experiments in his clinical institute, that the application of radium, in certain cases of contraction of the œsophagus, when caused by cancer, will partially disintegrate the malignant growth and bring about an enlargement of the gullet. Professor Gussenbauer's method of operation consisted in placing in the lower end of a bougie pipe a rubber capsule, containing sixty millegrammes of radium, and applying the pipe to the part affected, holding it there for some time. The Professor found that the radium rays brought about the decomposition of the ulcerous growth, thus enlarging the gullet and enabling the patient to take food in the ordinary way. This treatment obviates the necessity for an operation for the introduction of food direct into the stomach. Professor Gussenbauer's experiment is not without danger, since the use of too much radium would cause such rapid decomposition of the ulcer that the œsophagus itself might be perforated. It is, however, hoped that some means may be discovered to prevent such a danger.

### Radium Investigation.

According to Professor d'Arsonval, who for weeks has been experimenting in the laboratory of the College de France, radium has played havoc with Professor Curie's fingers. The element which burns, flashes like lightning, goes off into vapour, and yet remains intact, is a substance more marvellous in its properties than electricity. It is asserted that the Professor thinks it capable of solving every unknown problem of physics. He declares that the English, Americans, and Germans must not be allowed to reap all the glory.

### A New Inhal-ing Apparatus.

Dr. Bulling, a Zurich medical practitioner, has during the past week been carrying out a series of experiments with his inhaling apparatus for the treatment of consumption. By means of this, liquid medicine is reduced into fine powder, which by the aid of compressed air is blown into every small ramification of the lungs. Many parts in the interior of the lungs have up to now been inaccessible to treatment, and Dr. Bulling claims to have done away with this difficulty. The experiments, which have been carried out at Zurich on animals, have given astonishing results.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)