

The hands must then be kept exposed to the air with the fingers separated until thoroughly dry. They may then be washed in alcohol, bichloride, or any of the antiseptic solutions without interfering with the coating or affecting the skin. It wears off on the tips of the fingers if the operations be many or prolonged, when another application may be made between operations; on the remaining portion of the hands one application is sufficient for a whole morning's work.

"My routine method of hand preparation is as follows: First, five to seven minutes' washing with spirits of green soap (five per cent.) and running hot water; second, three minutes' washing with alcohol; third, after thoroughly drying I pour on the rubber solution after the method above stated, allowing it to dry without rubbing after the surface is thoroughly covered. The coating is so thin it can only be recognised by its glazed appearance. The coating will resist soap-and-water washing to cleanse the hands between operations. It is removed by washing in benzine.

"The abdomen or surface preparation is five minutes' scrubbing with spirits of green soap (five per cent.), then washing with ether, followed by alcohol. The surface is then swabbed over thoroughly with the acetone or benzine rubber solution.

"The gutta-percha solution is prepared by dissolving pure gutta-percha chips in sterile benzine or acetone. This was accomplished first for me by the chemist, E. von Hermann. These solutions do not stand boiling, as it impairs the adhesiveness and elasticity of the coating. The advantages of this method of avoiding the dangers of infection from the hands and skin of the patient are very evident. In addition to the bactericidal properties of the benzine, it prevents perspiration beneath the coated surface, and also the rubbing off of epithelia from the hands and skin surface into the wound. It does not puncture, like the rubber glove, and where it wears off on the finger-tips there is no accumulated epithelium or secretion beneath. It is, moreover, impermeable, and precludes the ingress of infective flora or blood to the operator's skin. After operating, the surface washes clean as readily as the surface of a rubber glove. At the end of the day's work, when the hands are washed in benzine to remove the coating, the skin is very soft and smooth. The surgeon's hands are thus protected from all of the deleterious effects of daily operating, which is in itself a safeguard against infection. Inoculation and bacteriological tests are being made, and will be reported in detail later. The simplicity and ease of application of this method, with its practical certainty of protection, should appeal to every operator."

Hot Meals on the March. All the tinned meats for the Russian Army are being prepared at St. Petersburg and Riga by a German process which enables the

contents of each tin to be served hot without a fire. The process of heating is to place the tin inside another filled with water, and having a false bottom. The latter contains a carbide mixture which can be forced into the water when desired, its effect being to bring the contents of the inner tin to boiling-point in a few minutes. The soldiers are thus enabled to enjoy a hot meal when no ordinary cooking could be done.

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



We regret that, owing to the space devoted to the meeting and Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, we have been compelled to hold over the report of the Matrons' Council Quarterly Meeting on May 13th. It will appear in our next issue.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, Sir James Crichton Browne said:—"A signal proof of the influence the Association was already exerting was given in the fact that in both the Bills now before Parliament for the State Registration of Nurses provision was made for a representation of mental nurses on the Central Board which was to be charged with the supervision of the education, discipline, and regulation generally of registered nurses throughout the country. He ventured to say that, had this Association not been in existence, no such recognition would have been conceded to mental nurses." Sir James Crichton Browne then said that he had that day resigned the presidential chair of the Association, after a service of seven years, not because the duties were onerous, but because he felt that the infusion of fresh blood into the official body would impart to it new energy and initiative."

We are one with him as to "fresh blood." Why does he not give the R.B.N.A. a chance? As to the representation of mental nurses on a Central Board, that, too, is good, but let mental nurses have a care that they are not classed as "specialists" in the future organisation of their profession. Let them claim a right to a good sound general nursing education, which will qualify them to register as trained nurses, and not as "mental" nurses, or under any disqualifying title.

In an Encyclical sent by Miss Lückes to nurses trained at the London Hospital, which has reached us, we note in this diatribe against Registration she remarks: "The advocates of State Registration of Nurses are ready to offer it as a sort of panacea for all the complaints against nurses which we hear on every hand, and, to a certain section of the public, quack remedies professing to cure all ills are very attractive."

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