

our English sisters I am not competent to judge. Each must search her own heart.

In order to promote the possession of the most valuable qualities of good breeding and general intellectual development, the *Dutch Association for Psychiatry and Neurology* has instituted two examinations, *A and B*.

A is divided in three parts :—

A1 includes an elementary knowledge of the Dutch language, grammar, &c., arithmetic, history, and geography.

A2 includes general sick nursing.

A3 the nursing of the insane.

B includes the total of all this, only more enlarged.

The warm sympathy always shown by our English sisters for all Dutch nursing matters encourages me to tell you all these things that you may have some idea of what is growing and stirring in the "low lands on the sea."

Before ending this letter, still a few words about the Bond's *Home of Rest* for Nurses, Bella Vista, near Arnhem, in one of the most beautiful parts of our country. It has been opened some five months, and in that short time has exerted already a blissful influence upon a large number of tired, overstrained, or convalescent nurses, who have found there a real comfortable "home," a snug and cosy shelter, with an opportunity in every way to recover their health and to lay in a fresh store of energy and cheerfulness. The costs for board and lodging agree with the pecuniary ability of the average nurse—one florin (1s. 8d.) a day, including medical treatment, when needed, is certainly not too much.

Bella Vista is open during the whole year.

HOLLANDIA.

Slow Progress of Cremation.

There are now nine crematoriums in active existence in Great Britain, the oldest of which is the institution at Woking.

Remarking that the practice of cremation makes but slow progress, the *British Medical Journal* gives the following figures :—

Crematoriums.	Opened in	Cremations.		Total.
		1903.	1904.	
St. John's, Woking	1885	143	138	2,653
Manchester	1892	92	94	838
Glasgow	1895	18	20	157
Liverpool	1896	40	40	264
Hull (Municipal)	1901	18	20	68
Darlington	1901	1	7	11
Leicester (Corporation)	1902	5	8	14
Golder's Green, N. W.	1902	158	220	383
Birmingham	1903	—	19	19
Totals		475	566	4,407

At the Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Sarah Acland Memorial District Nurses, and the Acland Nursing Home, Oxford, Mr. H. Acland said he saw that the accounts of the District Nurses and the Nursing Home were together, and he would suggest that they should be kept quite distinct in future. He thought it might be a good thing if the accounts could be gone through from the beginning and a statement of accounts made between the two funds.

New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

FELS NAPHTHA.

The value in household use of Fels Naptha soap is now well known, on washing days it is well-nigh indispensable; but its value as a germicide, and therefore as an agent for cleansing purposes in hospitals is less well known. It has been submitted for report on this point to the Chairman of the Institute of Hygiene, John C. Thresh, Esq., M.D., D.Sc., F.I.C., Lecturer Public Health, London Hospital, and to its Bacteriologist, John W. H. Eyre, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. Edin., Lecturer on Bacteriology at Guy's Hospital. They find that a saturated solution of Fels Naptha is 10.3 per cent., which kills all but three out of ten selected germs in 2½ minutes, and all in ten minutes.

The ten germs selected were :—*Bacillus anthracis*, *B. pestis*, *B. typhosus*, *B. dysenteriae*, *B. coli*, *B. diphtheriae*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Vibrio Metschnikovi*, *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes longus*.

Definite experiments made with the object of ascertaining what strength of solution and how much time are required to sterilise pathogenic cultures gave the following results :—

Five cc. of each of the eight Fels-Naptha solutions (1, 2½, 5, 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 per cent. of the saturated solution) were put into test-tubes with 0.25 cc. of the broth culture of one of four selected germs in each (the number of test-tubes so employed being thirty-two); and, at the end of each of the three exposure-times (2½, 15 and 60 minutes), 0.1 cc. of the contents of each of these thirty-two test-tubes was plated, incubated at blood heat, and counted; the observation continued, when necessary, for fourteen days (the number of plates so employed being ninety-six).

To furnish a standard of comparison, a 1 per cent. solution of phenol was tested alongside of the eight Fels-Naptha solutions.

Result: The solutions of less than 75 per cent. (of the saturated solution) did not sterilise the cultures in all cases; the 75 per cent. did not in 2½ minutes in one case, but sterilised all in 15 minutes.

CONCLUSION.

The 1 per cent. solution of phenol sterilised the other cultures in 15 minutes, but failed to sterilise *staphylococcus aureus* in that time. It sterilised none in 2½ minutes.

The 75 per cent. Fels-Naptha solution has, therefore, distinctly higher germicide strength than the 1 per cent. phenol.

Fels Naptha soap is sold by grocers and oilmen throughout the country, the cost being 2½d. per bar; it may be used not only for every kind of laundry work but for wood work and marble. It is also useful in the stable, and may be employed for cleansing carriages and harness, as well as for washing dogs.

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