

muslin cases and instruments, with the exception of all sharp or cutting instruments, as needles, knives, scissors, &c., which should be sterilised after washing by immersion in 90 per cent. carbolic acid, full strength lysol or crenasol for 5 minutes, and after rinsing in alcohol, dried and replaced in the sterile cases. Baking in a hot oven is not thought to be so reliable as boiling or steaming.

The copper cylinders should have the caps on the ends moved off till the perforations are exposed so as to permit the steam to penetrate the cotton packed in the can, and again slipped tightly in place when removed from the steriliser.

When an Arnold's steriliser is not obtainable, an ordinary tin steamer with a well-fitted cover such as employed in cooking vegetables, can be used over a kettle of boiling water on the kitchen range.

Bicarbonate of soda added to the water prevents tarnishing of instruments, but must not be used in boiling rubber goods.

#### CHEMICAL ANTISEPTICS.

Mercuric chloride, or bichloride of mercury as it is often called, is one of the cheapest and most efficient disinfectants used. It is put up in convenient tablet form, combined with other chemicals, to render it more soluble and efficient.

It has the objections of being poisonous and of destroying the plating on instruments and metal basins. It should be mixed in earthen, enamelled, or granite bowls, never in tinned or metal dishes. When mixed with bloody discharges it becomes inert and no longer useful as a disinfectant.

As a hand solution it is used in the proportion of 1 to 2,000, for douches 1 to 4,000, and should never be left where children or those ignorant of its poisonous properties can handle it.

Lysol is now much used in obstetrics, and is a soapy coal-tar preparation into which instruments can be placed for disinfection and lubrication. When used in the strength of 1 per cent. it is excellent for cleansing the skin, but the odour is often offensive to patients.

Crethol is a product similar to lysol with less offensive odour, and is used in the same proportions. It has been substituted for lysol in many hospitals and clinics.

Crenasol is still another coal-tar preparation which can be used in full strength on the skin, and is said to be as effective in destroying germs as 95 per cent. carbolic acid. It is used in 1 or 2 per cent. as a douche.

Carbolic acid is an old-time disinfectant, used much in the past in the lying-in room. It should be discarded by nurses because of its clinging, offensive odour, poisonous nature when used in strong solution, and dangerous from its caustic properties. It has been the cause of many accidental burns when smeared over bed-pans, towels, &c. When such a burn has occurred, the prompt applica-

tion of alcohol while the skin is still white from the acid will check the caustic effect.

Cutting instruments when disinfected in 95 per cent. carbolic should always be washed in alcohol before being handled.

When carbolic solution is used for the hands, 5 per cent. should be employed, for douches 2 per cent.

In computing the strength of solutions it will be useful to remember the following:—

1 grain to 1 oz. is approximately 1 to 500.

7½ grains to 1 pint is approximately 1 to 1,000.

7½ grains to 1 quart is approximately 1 to 2,000.

1 per cent. is approximately 5 grains to 1 oz. or 2½ drachms to 1 quart.

## The Registration of Nurses.

BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

In accordance with your request, I have read with much interest, and, I must confess, with considerable surprise, the article published by Miss Katharine Monk in the current issue of the *Monthly Review*. The writer makes a number of very definite assertions, but I have failed to discover that she submits any argument in their support; on the other hand, many of those statements could be easily disproved. For example, she asserts that "Registration is not, and never can be, applicable to nurses, nursing being a vocation or calling, not truly speaking a profession." It does not appear to me to be very material by what particular term Nursing is described; but one altogether fails to understand the assertion that "Registration" must necessarily be confined to the members of a "profession." One seems to have heard of the Registration of Trade-marks, of Friendly Societies, and even of Common-Lodging Houses, and there is certainly a strong body of opinion in this country in favour of the Registration of plumbers—workers to whom perhaps Miss Monk would deny the right to term themselves a "profession."

In the next place, with all deference to Miss Monk, I must seriously question her right to speak on behalf of the medical profession. Inasmuch as she lays the greatest stress throughout her article upon the position which the nurse should hold towards the medical practitioner, I assume she will not deny the ability of the profession to form their own opinion upon this important matter, and one might even hope that the views they have expressed upon it would exercise some slight influence with her. She will doubtless be surprised to learn that the General Medical Council, which is the body appointed by Parliament to govern the medical profession in this country, so long ago as 1889 unanimously resolved that "it would be much to the advantage of the public, and particularly would be of much convenience to the practitioners of medicine

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