

## THE "LANCET" ON REGISTRATION.

The last issue of the *Lancet* has an article on the State Registration of Nurses, in which it is stated that the opposition to this measure is caused by the objections entertained to the propositions contained in the two Bills which have already been introduced into Parliament, rather than by opposition to the principle of Registration. We are glad to hear it. If those who so long and so bitterly have opposed the principle of Registration, and not so many years ago refused to consider the matter further, now approve it, this is a triumph indeed for the Registration party. For the sake of their *amour propre* they could scarcely do less than object to details while conceding the principle. But, our contemporary gives no definite reasons for its belief, and in the face of the active antagonism expressed to the principle of Registration by the leaders of the opposition we fear it is unwise to build much on the assumption.

The *Lancet* considers that the features in the present Bills, which are sure to excite opposition, are "labour with a capital L," and "examination with a capital E." It fears the formation of any semblance of a "nurses' trade union," albeit the medical profession has the reputation of being the "strongest trade union in the world"; and, secondly, it considers that examinations are falling into disrepute, and thinks a central examination objectionable, tending to "superficial cram." The obvious answer to this is that the word which should be spelt with a big "E" is "education." Examination is but a means to an end, and, though all examinations have their limitations, no convenient substitute has so far been found, and the recently-formed Central Midwives' Board is now arranging the scheme of the examination which it proposes to hold in a few months' time. Obviously, the way to make an examination of nurses most effective, and at the same time to avoid the evils which our contemporary fears, is to lay great emphasis on its practical side.

We cannot consider satisfactory the alternative proposed by the *Lancet*, or share its apparent belief that objections to Registration would disappear if a Registration scheme were drafted which provided for the periodical inspection of hospitals, in conjunction with the recognition of the certificate of such training-schools as conformed to the required standard.

The real objection of the training-school authorities is to what is termed "State interference" of any kind, and any attempt to register schools, without also registering their pupils, must be condemned because it ignores the personality of the individual nurse.

As for voluntary registration, which is also suggested, it has been tried and failed, because of obstruction on the part of the larger hospitals. Registration under State authority has, on the other hand, proved satisfactory in other countries whenever it has been enforced, and can alone meet the needs of the case in this country.

## Practical Points.

At the London Hospital, with Warm Rubber Pillows for Delicate Infants. babies or very young children after operation, or in cases of low vitality, the cribs are made up with a large, square pad or flat cushion of rubber filled with warm water under the draw-sheet. The warm water is periodically renewed, thus maintaining continuous warmth without fear of burns.

The belt employed by Dr. T. Whooping-Cough G. Kilmer is thus described:—A Treated by the Elastic Abdominal Belt. stockinette band is placed on a baby with whooping cough, in the same manner as is done by orthopedists before applying the plaster-of-paris jacket. This band extends from the axillæ to the pubes and fits the baby snugly. Two muslin shoulder straps are used to prevent the band from slipping down. On this stockinette band a single width of silk elastic bandage is sewn, extending entirely around the body and covering the abdomen. This silk elastic bandage is of the same quality as that used for elastic stockings. If the child is under a year old, it will be found necessary to use but one width (5 in.) of this elastic bandage; in an older child, two widths will often be found necessary to entirely cover the abdomen. This silk elastic bandage is pinned in place when very slightly on the stretch. After it is pinned in place, it should be sewn to the stockinette band underlying it, all around its entire edge; this procedure keeps the silk elastic belt flat and prevents its rolling up or becoming creased. The lower projecting portion of the stockinette band should be pinned down to the outside of the diaper, or other clothing, thus keeping the elastic belt smooth over the abdomen. Dr. Kilmer states that out of eighteen patients on whom this belt was used, cough was relieved in twelve and vomiting in all but one.

A new treatment recently advocated by a French physician in cases where persons have been overcome by gas was recently tried in the United States on a patient by Dr. Reuben C. Hill, and was surprisingly successful. It consisted in introducing peroxide of hydrogen into the system by means of a stomach pump, the idea being to inject oxygen into the blood, in order that the effects of the carbon monoxide might be counteracted. The treatment met with instant results, and Edward Tracy, the patient, who was unconscious when taken in and had been so for hours, soon regained consciousness, and subsequently recovered.

Sir Oliver Lodge has concluded his lectures at Birmingham on "Water, Wind, and Weather" on behalf of the Society for Providing Country Holidays for Poor Children. Discussing fogs, he affirmed that if we wished to cure town fogs we must improve our methods of combustion, and not allow crude coal to be burned. The coal ought to be dissected and distilled into its constituents, the asphalt and what was

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