

relieve his pain, and at the same time you are helping forward the preparations for an operation, though, of course, an energetic "cleaning up" is out of the question until an anæsthetic has been administered.

If there is any vomiting the matter vomited should be saved for the doctor's inspection, if any urine is passed notice whether there is any blood in it, or anything else abnormal.

For cases of burns or scalds choose a warm bed near the fire and sheltered from draughts; have ready a good supply of whatever dressing your doctor likes to have used; lint soaked in carron oil or spread with boracic ointment and vaseline serves the purpose very well, but the great point is to get some dressing on and the air excluded as rapidly as possible, and then to use every effort to get over the general shock by the application of heat, and most doctors allow a small dose of some stimulant if there is much collapse; but only small feeds of diluted milk should be given at first, as there is often a good deal of vomiting after a bad burn.

For a case of fractured spine or fractured pelvis most doctors like to have a water bed prepared before the patient is put to bed; or, if you do not know in time what the case is, for him to be very carefully removed on to one as soon as possible; and remember to raise the foot of the bed for a fractured pelvis. My space is limited, or there are many more points I should like to have mentioned with regard to these and other accidents. Unless it is absolutely necessary do not wash an accident patient directly he is landed in the ward, even half an hour of rest in a warm bed, with, perhaps, a reassuring word from his next door neighbours, will do much to make him feel at home and get over the alarm of the accident and the pain of being jolted up to the hospital.

Be careful not to cut a patient's clothes unnecessarily, and, if possible, when you do cut, let it be up a seam so that they can be repaired, but, of course, if there is much hæmorrhage or a bad fracture it may be necessary, even if it means sacrificing an only pair of trousers.

Above all things, keep calm, if you wish to help the patient and also to help the doctor.

R. R. C.

Indignation in the R.B.N.A.

We are informed by several Matrons and nurses who are members of the R.B.N.A. that their inclination is to resign, and indeed steps have been taken to enable those who strongly disapprove of the re-drafted Bill, and the wrong methods by which it has been adopted, to do so effectively, but that the question is still under consideration.

The Progress of French Nursing.

There are always many aspects to every question, the reason being that we cannot all stand in the same spot, and must therefore have a different view from where we stand. To a French lady trained in England, who returns to France, the position of French nursing must be a discouraging one. The municipal hospitals in Paris, the civil and military ones in the provinces, the amateur attempts, the new little training schools, with their young and inexperienced nurses, having no traditional atmosphere, nor yet older heads than theirs to guide them. How pathetic it must all seem to your correspondent who signs herself "Marie"!

But "Marie" must not be discouraged, for even since I first took up my pen, now about a year ago, to describe the condition of nursing in France, I see many progressive steps.

Madame Alphen Salvador's little hospital has been subventioned by the Government, and recognised as "d'utilité publique." Her surgical home is flourishing, her private nurses are called for thrice more frequently than she can supply them to the public, while nine of them are now at the head of either provincial hospitals or of surgical homes.

The Tondu Hospital at Bordeaux has been visited by President Loubet, and Miss Elston given the bronze medal of the Assistance Publique, while several of the certificated pupils from the Protestant hospital are in charge of some of the provincial hospitals, such as Issoire and Alais.

Then again, M. Mesureur has done much by giving the "infirmières" a position above all the other *employées* of the Assistance Publique, for the nurses are now to be distinguished from the "filles de services" and the "surveillantes" from the other heads of departments—*i.e.*, laundries, schools, kitchens, etc., by having a gold star in their caps. The uneducated are being rejected from among the new candidates and the male attendants are being shelved as much as is possible.

Nor must we forget that a new school has been started at the Rue St. Vercingetorix under the patronage of thirty eminent medical men and many great ladies bearing the titles of some of the oldest nobility, but who in reality are Rothschilds by birth, so that not only are they backed by much money, but they are also recognised and subventioned by the Government—and best of all—the directrice, Mdle de St. Exupery, has lived in England and has had some English training at Olapham under Dr. McCall, and I hear she has succeeded in giving the school a refined and charming tone

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)