

linen, and flannels be not washed in the copper at the same time as the laundry of the rest of the family. They must be kept quite distinct both when soiled and during the process of washing. Have a receptacle for the patient's soiled linen different from that used for the household.

We will suppose that the cottage has a proper copper, with a fire underneath, allowing of sufficient heat to really boil the cotton or linen clothes, the District Nurse should time her visit so as to call when the weekly wash is in progress. With a little tact she ought to be able to teach the woman in charge the necessity of keeping the linen of the patient separate from that of the family, and then, with only very little more trouble, to boil the infected linen after the other things have been taken out of the copper.

If there be no copper procure a large tin fish kettle and give instructions that it be used for the sick man's clothes only. You will generally find that there is some "lady of the manor," or other charitable person who will provide this if the need be pointed out.

It is quite useless to suggest two washing days; I mention this because I once came across a case where this was done to the great wrath of the patient's wife, who did not approve of the trouble involved by the nurse's "fads."

Flannels, of course, you cannot boil; neither can you steep them long enough in a disinfectant fluid to destroy bacteria without ruining the garments; but, fortunately, in light and certain rays of the sun we have a powerful germicide.

In connection with this Mr. Arthur Ransome in his "Treatment of Phthisis" gives an account of some most interesting experiments conducted by himself and Prof. Delépine with a view "to determine how short a period of exposure to air and light would suffice to destroy the virulent action of the microbe." They proved that "all the specimens exposed to both light and air even for two days only, and for one hour of sunshine, were found to have lost their power for evil. It will be noticed that these times of exposure to either light or air were less than would suffice for the pulverisation of the sputum under ordinary circumstances. . . . It must be remembered that these tests were much more severe than would be found under ordinary circumstances."

To understand the full significance of the above compare it with another experiment carried out by the same investigator: "I have myself proved that such sputum" (containing quantities of bacilli) "exposed to the air in a poor cottage in Ancoats retained its virulence for two or three months at least."

Koch has also published accounts of experiments proving that sunlight is quickly fatal to the tubercle bacillus, and that even diffuse daylight is a germicide but in a lesser degree. This germicidal property has nothing to do with the heat of the sun, it lies in certain rays from the violet end of the spectrum. The moral of the story is evident; give instructions that the flannels and blankets are washed by themselves and then exposed freely to the action of the sun, light, and air.

In the country there should be no difficulty about this.

Explain that the exposure is not simply for drying purposes, but for the safety of the household, and try to persuade the mother of the family to keep the patient's underlinen, &c., hanging on the line as much as possible when the weather is fine.

Remember in dealing with patients suffering from any form of tubercular disease that "what applies to sputum applies to all other tuberculous discharges, although the dangers from the sputum probably outweigh the risk from other sources." ("Andrewes' Lessons in Disinfection.")

HELEN TODD.

Progress of State Registration.

We are glad to find that many people who could not venture to form an opinion of their own as to the wisdom of State Registration for Nurses have, since studying the Blue Book with evidence for and against, and with the help of the Report of the Select Committee on Registration, become quite convinced of the necessity for the better organisation of nurses' education, training and status. This is very satisfactory.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND REGISTRATION.

The Medico-Political Committee of the British Medical Association has drawn up a "Nurses' Registration Report," and, in remitting the subject of Nurses' Registration again to the Divisions, submits its Memorandum for their consideration. This concludes with the following questions as a convenient method of obtaining the views of the Association prior to the Annual Representative Meeting in London in July:—

1. Does the Division approve in general of the method of Registration for Nurses proposed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons?

2. Does the Division approve of the separate Registration of Midwifery Nurses?

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