

A Grievous Loss.

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Miss C. E. Guthrie Wright, the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute from its inception, and a warm supporter of the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

We also record, with deep regret, the death of two pioneer workers in the cause of State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Miss Eva Mary Allerton died at the Homoeopathic Hospital, Rochester, New York State, where she was Superintendent for 17 years. The *American Journal of Nursing* attributes to her "qualities of brain, mind, and heart far above the average. She had the courage and the power to carry through large undertakings in a broad, liberal way, combined with the art of paying attention to the smallest detail. . . ."

"Miss Allerton was best known outside of Rochester as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee which carried the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in New York to a successful issue. Without her knowledge of affairs and of political methods, it is doubtful if the nurses of the State could have carried this measure in one year. This work was done by Miss Allerton under tremendous nervous strain, and she felt herself that the effort and excitement of the legislative campaign, combined with her exacting duties in the hospital, hastened the development of the disease which finally caused her death."

Another great loss is that of Dr. Macgregor, Inspector-General of Hospitals, and Registrar of Nurses in New Zealand. It was during his tenure of office in the above capacity that the "Act to provide for the Registration of Trained Nurses in New Zealand" was passed, on September 12th, 1901, greatly owing to the efforts of his most able assistant, Mrs. Grace Neill, a trained nurse, whose work in this direction had his most cordial support and sympathy. Dr. Macgregor, reporting to the General Assembly since the passage of the Act, generously acknowledged his indebtedness to Mrs. Neill in the work of its administration. In his last report, presented in July, 1906, he wrote: "New Zealand has proved by five years' experience the advantage to medical men and the public, as well as to the nursing profession, of having a recognised standard of efficiency, and consequent State Registration."

The cause of Registration throughout the world is the poorer by the death of these staunch friends, and strenuous workers on its behalf, and we hold their names in honoured remembrance.

Practical Points.

A Simple Steriliser.

An ordinary potato steamer is very useful for sterilizing dressings, bandages, etc., where the proper thing is unavailable. The articles to be sterilized are first placed in a small towel or piece of calico, then into the steamer, and steamed for an hour over a saucepan of boiling water. Afterwards, the steamer is placed in a moderate oven for half-an-hour or more, according to the heat, when the contents will be found to be perfectly dry.

Nurse M.

Examination of Urine.

The following, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, offers a ready method for the hasty examination of urine. It may be useful to nurses.

Put a drop of urine on a strip of white filtering paper, heat it slowly and carefully, and if sugar be present, the spot dries with a yellowish brown to a deep brown, depending on the amount. If albumen be present, the colour is yellow, merging perhaps into yellowish red. Chloroform is a test for bile. A few drops added to urine in a test tube will cause it to become turbid, and acquire a yellowish tint, darker or lighter, according to the quantity of bile present. Perchloride of iron develops a blue tinge if the patient is a morphine eater.

Dr. Richard A. Taylor, writing in the *New York Medical Journal*, says: Potassium permanganate is too useful a drug to be put

aside because it stains the clothing or the fingers of the operator. The removal of these stains is so simple that one wonders why oxalic acid is so much used.

I have used potassium permanganate freely, and have never failed to immediately remove its stains by using hydrogen peroxide. If the office towels or the patient's linen are stained, there is no need to hurry. The stains will come out just as readily, no matter how old they may be.

Quite frequently potassium permanganate is used as a mouth wash or as a paint for the tonsils. A text-book recommends its use in these conditions, but warns against its blackening the tissues and the teeth. Pure hydrogen peroxide will immediately bleach the parts.

The operator who uses the permanganate method of hand sterilisation will find complete satisfaction by dipping the hands in a bowl of hydrogen peroxide diluted to just the point of sufficient strength. If used in full strength, the only thing to be considered is the cost. However, it will be found a boon to those whose hands get rough after repeated permanganate and oxalic acid washings.

The advantages of this non-poisonous decolouriser need only be mentioned to be appreciated.

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