

this evidence of progress among anti-registrationists, we should still press for a complete scheme of Registration, which will secure the better organisation of the profession by the establishment of a representative governing body, to whom would be delegated the power of setting up a standard of training for fully qualified nurses, and the duty of ascertaining that applicants for Registration have gone through the prescribed course, and possess the necessary qualifications; or that on the passing of the Act they were in *bonâ-fide* practice, and in possession of satisfactory testimonials. We must also ask that the State should protect the Register by making it illegal for those who have not been admitted to the Register by the Governing Council to assume the title of "Registered Nurse."

#### THE SUBJECTION OF NURSES.

The aim of the Central Hospital Council for London is quite simple. It does not desire to see instituted a representative governing body charged with the duty of defining and maintaining efficient standards, or of safeguarding the interests of fully trained nurses, and it is doggedly determined to prevent, if possible, the nurses having any degree of self-government. It is merely fighting from the standpoint of the employer to retain for hospital committees all power over their employées not only while they are in the service of the hospitals, but when fully certificated, independent workers. A State system of Registration of Nurses will unquestionably require the Governors of Training Schools for Nurses to give evidence of providing an efficient curriculum of education for their pupils. At present no such reasonable guarantee is in force.

#### THE STATE SOCIETY WILL ACT.

The conduct of the Central Hospital Council for London will be discussed upon a Resolution at a meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in London before the meeting of Parliament.

#### A SALT RUB.

A salt rub is excellent for its stimulating effects and its delightful reaction. Although given almost entirely in institutions, one can be had at home with good results. Have the patient stand in a tub, and with a watering-can pour warm water gently over the body. Then dampen a jar of salt and rub the body thoroughly. Sprinkle again with warm water. Finish with a dash of cold water. Dry with a Turkish towel, rubbing briskly until a glow appears.

## Medical Matters.

### OPSONIC INDEX AND VACCINE THERAPY.



Dr. Ruth Vail, and Dr. Mary C. Lincoln contribute to the current issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* a most interesting article on the above subject. They say in part:

It is the appearance of a newly coined word which often sheds a halo of mystery about a comparatively simple subject. Such a mystery seems to radiate from the term "opsonin," and it is our desire that all nurses shall understand both the meaning and the value of opsonic therapy, which is arousing such interest in the present day professional world.

The term "opsonic" is a Greek word meaning "I prepare food for," and opsonins are substances whose presence has been demonstrated in the blood of both man and the lower animals, the function of such substances being to prepare bacteria as food for the white blood corpuscles.

Bearing in mind the mechanism of immunity, which consists in raising the resistance of an individual against a given micro-organism, you are master of the fundamental principles of opsonic therapy, which is nothing more nor less than the process of immunising the individual against invading bacteria.

When pathogenic bacteria gain entrance to the body, the outcome depends upon two factors—(1) The infecting agent, and (2) the individual infected.

(1) The infecting agent owes its morbid success to three main things: (a) Its virulence, or power to multiply in the body and cause disease, (b) the number of bacteria which are introduced, for we know that tissue whose resistance has not been lowered, can withstand a certain number of pathogenic bacteria, (c) the pathway of infection, *i.e.*, whether the organisms enter the blood stream directly, as in septicæmia, or are localised, as in an abscess.

(2) The individual infected owes his resistance to four main protective powers of the blood, which combat the invading bacteria and their toxins. These four protective agencies are in character: (1) bactericidal, or having the power to kill bacteria; (2) bacteriolytic, which includes not only the power to kill but to dissolve bacteria; (3) agglutinating, or possessing the power to produce clumping of bacteria; (4) phagocytic, or the power of leucocytes to engulf and digest bacteria.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)