

Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League.

The summer social gathering of the League was held in the Hospital on Saturday, July 15th. Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., had most kindly consented to give an address, and selected "Private Nursing" as her subject. The address was of a most practical, helpful nature, and general satisfaction was expressed by all who heard it that they were fortunate enough to have been able to be present.

Special mention was made by Mrs. Scharlieb of the National Insurance Bill, and the necessity for nurses to band together and protect their interests, just as the doctors were uniting to safeguard those of the medical profession.

The President, Miss Cox-Davies, in thanking Mrs. Scharlieb for her presence, emphasised the dangers to the nursing profession in the National Insurance Bill, and reminded those present that steps were being taken to arouse some interest in the matter in the minds of the nurses themselves by a public meeting that had been held only a few days ago.

The President also took the opportunity of pointing out that Mrs. Scharlieb had urged the nurses to unite in defending their own interests in the same way the doctors were doing. But it must be borne in mind that the reason the doctors were able to do this was because their profession was organised, and they had a legal position. The nursing profession in its present chaotic condition was at a disadvantage, and until the nurses themselves united to work loyally and faithfully for its organisation but little result could be hoped for in resisting such dangers as those threatened by the National Insurance Bill.

It was announced that the League has raised the sum of £40 to provide a set of Altar vessels as a memorial to the late King Edward VII.

Tea was served on the nurses' garden roof, and amongst the visitors welcomed were Mr. Holroyd Chaplin, Chairman of the Hospital, with some other members of the Committee, and representatives from some of the other Nurses' League.

Nurses' Protection Fund.

The expenses to date of the Committee organised to look after the interests of nurses in connection with the National Insurance Bill amount to £2 10s., including cost of hall for public meeting, etc. Contributions will be gratefully received by Miss Breay, 431, Oxford Street, W.

Practical Points.

Chloretone in Sea-Sickness.

With regard to a paper on Chloretone in Sea-Sickness, Miss W. M. Bickham, Matron of the Essex County

Hospital, writes:—

"I should like to make a remark with regard to its use in railway sickness with much success. A friend of mine was so troubled with this disagreeable complaint that she could not journey even a short distance of say 30 or less miles without sickness, and she could not travel on a tram (electric) for more than a few miles. She has found that if on the day she proposes to take a journey she takes a 5 gr. capsule of chloretone on an empty stomach, say, before her breakfast, and 5 grs. before getting into the train, she will have comfort to the end of her journey. Should there be a break in the journey another 5 grs. may be taken before getting into the second train or on to a boat if crossing the Channel, etc. She always takes one extra in case of need, but has never required more than two up to now, even with a break in the journey.

"I thought this might be of interest to your many readers who are sure to find some travellers afflicted in the same manner."

Radium Breezes for Gout.

Radium-laden breezes are the very latest thing in the treatment of gout. One of the papers read at the

German Medical Congress at Wiesbaden was on the application of radium in the aerial state. Radium "emanatoria" have been established in Berlin and at Bad Homburg, and now Ems is to have one. A special apparatus in which radium is placed in a current of air is fixed in a room, and all the patients have to do is to sit in the room and talk or read newspapers or play draughts; the radium in solution in the air does the rest and affects the blood through the lungs.

Disguised by Glycerine.

An American doctor states that there is no substance equal in power to glycerine in disguising nauseous medicines. Turpentine, solutions of iron, castor oil, and various other medicines can be diluted by glycerine and rendered almost entirely tasteless.

To Preserve Rubber Gloves.

Rubber gloves are a very costly item in surgical stores, and any method which will preserve them with safety is to be commended. Dr. J. M. Lynch, quotes the *American Journal of Nursing*, relates a method which he has found satisfactory. A very large jar after being boiled was filled with sterile water, with formalin added in the proportion of 1 to 1000. In this the gloves are immersed, after being boiled for 20 minutes. Two pairs kept in the solution for a year as an experiment were found to be sterile and perfect in texture at the end of that time.

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