

and hence absorbed into the blood stream, hinders the conversion of the soluble form of sodium urate into the insoluble, hence enabling the ready excretion of the uratic salt from the system to occur. For this reason appropriate radium medication is of the utmost service in gout and allied conditions, in which the transformation of one form of sodium urate into the other rapidly takes place.

One striking result of the action of radium on the organism appears to be the large increase in the number of red blood corpuscles it produces. Experiments which have been made by Dominici, Petet, and Jaboin seem to show the blood serum of animals who have had radium sulphate injected into the venous system has the property of arresting the pathogenic processes arising from the presence of micro-organisms in the human or animal frame.

That radium probably plays an important part physiologically is indicated by the investigations of Dr. Caan, of Heidelberg, who found it to exist in the brain, lungs, and liver, together with his observation that the more diseased an organ was, the greater appeared to be its tendency to absorb radium energy.

So the curtain is gradually being withdrawn, opening out a vista of the usefulness of radium, and even almost of its necessity, that awakens more and more astonishment at its marvellous properties. The nursing profession cannot afford to remain in ignorance of those qualities of radium which adapt it so peculiarly to therapeutic use, or of the essentials of treatment, and probably no better opportunity arises for acquiring this knowledge than that which will be given at the forthcoming Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition and Conference, whereat a radium room will be a particular attraction, designed as it will be to illustrate the wonderful nature of radium and its use medicinally. An apparatus which has been used with marked success on the Continent will be a feature. This—the radium emanatorium—is designed expressly for diffusing into the air radium emanation.

Any nurse may obtain tickets for the Exhibition and railway tickets by applying to the Secretary, 22-24, Great Portland Street, London, W., and enclosing 3d. in stamps.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, supported by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, was introduced into the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon by the Right Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE WHAT PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS YOU WOULD TAKE BEFORE PASSING ON TO ANOTHER CASE AFTER ATTENDING A CASE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AS A PRIVATE NURSE.

We have pleasure in awarding the Prize this week to Miss A. M. Ashdown, 11, Manvers Street, Bath, for her paper on the above subject.

PRIZE PAPER.

Having prepared my room for fumigation with formalin and spread out all my clothing and effects so that the fumes would penetrate, I should undress, leaving all hairpins and combs soaking in carbolic lotion 1-20, and put on a washable dressing-gown or sheet; then close the room, having started the fumigation. I should then retire to the bathroom, and place the sheet or gown in a small tub containing sol. carbolic 1-20. I should then thoroughly shampoo my hair and have a hot bath, using plenty of Wright's coal tar soap, paying special attention to nails (which I should previously have cut as short as possible), ears, and nostrils. I should then place the flannel and nailbrush in the tub in 1-20, and proceed to carbolize the bath and floor around with carbolic 1-20. I should then clean my teeth (placing the toothbrush in the tub afterwards), and gargle and rinse out my mouth with a solution of carbolic 1-80, then swab out ears and nostrils with carbolic 1-60. Next I should rinse my hair well in carbolic 1-60, and wash my body with the same strength solution, using a clean flannel. I should then have another hot bath (using fresh soap and flannel), rinse my hair in clean water, and dry on towels which I should have had placed outside the door with clean sheet and slippers. I should then dress in a room in which no infected person or thing had been, putting on clean clothes which had not been in my room or the patient's. After my effects had been disinfected I should send all soiled clothes to the wash and repack the others. While in quarantine I should spend as long as possible in the fresh air. Before going to my next case I should take another disinfectant bath and wear clean clothes, and take a formamint tablet twice a day.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention: Miss M. Hughes and Miss E. Marshall (London), Miss McDonnell (Glasgow).

Miss Marshall draws attention to the fact that "disinfection *must* be carefully carried out

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