

thing indispensable would be a definite prospect of the introduction of a Suffrage Bill: as 'a first-class measure' in some such way that, by Referendum or otherwise, the real opinion of the country may be ascertained upon it."

He concludes "My part is done. What I have asked for seems almost beyond hope. But spiritual forces are strong; and with God's blessing even 'this thing' may 'be.'"

No class of the community have suffered more from the lack of political power than the trained nurses of this country. With this driving force behind it the Bill for their Registration by the State would, in the opinion of those best competent to judge, have been placed on the Statute Book before now. As it is, their conscientious aspirations are ignored, their plea, made consistently for the last 25 years, for better education that they may the better serve the sick, falls on deaf ears, their work is sweated, their status degraded and depreciated. It seems indeed impossible for nurses in this country to obtain anything that is vital and soul-sustaining, and it is little wonder that the indignity of their position, in spite of the fact that their work is recognised as indispensable to the community, fills those who value the honour of their profession with righteous indignation.

## RADIUM AND ITS USES IN MEDICINE.\*

(Concluded from page 331.)

In the latter half of his article Mr. W. S. Fox describes the treatment by radium of the following pathological conditions:—

**Moles.**—In dealing with moles, the results of radium are not so striking as compared to other methods of treatment. With a small mole electrolysis is quite satisfactory, and with a larger one CO<sub>2</sub> snow is equally as good, in some cases better than radium.

**Hypertrophic Scars from Burns.**—With hypertrophic scars and true keloid radium gives fairly good results, more especially with the latter, where any form of operative treatment is dangerous, and where treatment by CO<sub>2</sub> also sometimes produces disastrous results in the case of an increased keloid. It may be noticed here that it is unwise to change the treatment

from radium to CO<sub>2</sub> without leaving a fairly long interval. In some cases in which the interval has been short large keloidal masses have occurred; but, of course, it is not unusual, where a long exposure from CO<sub>2</sub> at a heavy pressure has been administered, to produce a keloid scar, especially in a young subject when no other treatment has been used previously. With a keloid, again, one only requires a very small filtration of the radium, as a certain amount of local inflammation is beneficial, although not to the same extent as a port-wine stain; one would, therefore, use one or two sheets of thin aluminium foil. At the end of a fortnight the keloid becomes inflamed and scales off, leaving a flat fairly inconspicuous scar. The treatment has been of great use in the condition known as acne keloid, which occurs on the back of the neck just at the edge of the collar in rather fat, middle-aged people who have had repeated acne pustules and boils in this region, and for this condition it is undoubtedly the best treatment.

**Fibromata.**—Fibromata, which are raised above the surface, can usually be treated by the "feu croisé" method, and give satisfactory results. It will be remembered that young fibrous tissue is one of the things that radium has a selective action for—this is, of course, the reason of its giving a good result with keloid also.

**Lichenification.**—Lichenification is a rather rare nervous condition of the skin, which occurs either primarily without any skin lesion, or more commonly secondarily to some itchy condition like psoriasis or eczema. When it occurs primarily it is usually a small circumscribed area over some prominent part which is exposed to friction, and, according to French authors, is common in heavy coffee drinkers. The situations where it more often comes is on the back of the neck over the vertebra prominens, sometimes on the neck higher up involving the edge of the scalp, on the elbow, and in the neighbourhood of the inner side of the knee-joint. It is an extremely itchy condition, and very difficult to treat. Practically no applications in the way of ointment or lotion have any effect on it, the skin over the area being thickened, raised above the surrounding surface, and showing a criss-cross grating effect like that seen in a confluent patch of lichen planus. Until the advent of radium it was generally treated with strong astringent and caustic ointments or with X-rays, the latter producing generally only temporary relief from the irritation. It must be confessed, however, that with radium the results are by no means always very good; occasionally only a temporary relief is effected.

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