

from the coast. The railway lines are laid down by spokes of old umbrellas. In a map of Canada, the colonists' homes were marked by domestic animals which the children had carved in wood, and surrounded with upright twigs for primeval forests. In a more detailed map of London, made in the school where I was Medical Officer, the commons were marked out in powdered green chalk, the bridges over the Thames and the principal buildings, such as the Tower, St. Paul's, and Westminster were moulded in clay.

Physical geography is taught by means of the natural features in the school grounds—for instance, a small rivulet was made to run through one side of the garden, islands and lochs were inserted, and a watershed shown. History is taught by taking a period for a time, pretending to live in it, and acting leading parts, in costume if possible. The pre-historic period was the first taken. A rough hut was made of branches, the children, dressed in savage costume, made pre-historic pots and implements in close imitation of those they had at hand as models in Horniman's Museum. Stonehenge came next, and the different sun tracings shown there. Then a lake dwelling was built up on stakes in a pond, and little boys and girls amused themselves by fishing out of their watery habitation. They next lived in a Roman Fort, greened over with quick growing cress. Finally a frowning Norman Castle was built with paving stones kindly lent by the Municipal workmen who were mending roads, and who thoroughly entered into the spirit of the thing. A flag fluttered proudly over the ramparts. In a corner of the garden there was a miniature coal mine constructed, and in another a lily pond was made with clay and cement, and real water lilies grew there.

The children also went through a course of historical colonization, beginning with the Roman occupation of Britain, and ending with South Africa.

As Colonists, the children are taught the art of lighting fires in the open and primitive cooking, the care of poultry, gardening, and felling trees. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides parade in costume.

(To be concluded.)

#### Varnish for Surgeon's Hands.

Dr. Elsie McDonald recommends in the *Medical Record* a varnish for coating the hands which is impervious, sterile, and easily applied and said to be far superior to rubber gloves. It is composed of a base of pyroxylin (soluble cotton), dissolved in amyl acetate and acetone with propyl and ethyl alcohol and other ingredients.

## STATE REGISTRATION.

### HOW TO PAY FOR THE PETITION.

The great amount of propaganda required to interest Parliament, and the public, in the urgent need for State Registration of Nurses, is a very costly matter. For a quarter of a century nurses and their friends have out of their limited means financed this great movement for the public health, and therefore for the benefit of the community. Just recently £20 has been expended in the Petition to the Premier from the Central Committee for State Registration, and the Appendix signed by upwards of 500 Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses. Let us hope that the members of the constituent societies will loyally support the Registration Reunion, to take place at the Connaught Rooms, London, on June 26th; and that they will attend and bring friends in such numbers, that through the sale of tickets we may be able to wipe out that little debt on the Petition. It can easily be done by energetic co-operation.

We regret that we have not space in this, our special Birmingham Conference Number, to deal with the correspondence between Viscount Wolmer, M.P., and Dr. Chapple, M.P., on the question of the Nurses' Registration Bill, which has been sent to the Press. In our next issue we shall refer to this matter at some length. Meanwhile the chief lesson to be gathered from it is, undoubtedly, how imperative it is that professional women should have the vote, so that their interests should not be dependent upon the change of opinion of those who have no intimate knowledge of, or conscientious convictions concerning, their life's work.

Once more Sir Henry Burdett has given the Nurses' Registration Bill its *coup de grâce* in his pseudo-nursing journal. In his omnipotence he has killed and buried it once again, only, no doubt, to find that this imaginary legislative corpse will rebound with renewed energy, as it invariably does after his absurd funereal prognostications! Next week good friends will plead its cause on the platform at the Birmingham Conference, and on the 26th inst., its supporters will hold a Reunion in London in support of the Petition to the Premier, to find time, at the earliest possible moment, for its Second Reading. No amount of battenning down will keep this vital spark quiescent, after the inspiration it received from the stupendous majority of 228, by which it passed its First Reading so triumphantly in the House of Commons on March 3rd.

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