

for a given period of time from forty minutes to two hours; the higher the temperature, the quicker the action. The methods chiefly used are hot air and steam, saturated steam being the most efficient owing to its penetrating qualities.

After sterilization the articles must be protected from the air till required, if for surgical use, in sealed packages, or in chemical disinfectant solution, as the case may be. Fluids and foods can be sterilized in double pans closely covered, and cooled for use in the sterilizing vessels.

The most effective method is sterilization by the simplest and most efficient agent—*heat*. Small articles can be boiled, large articles cleaned and scalded. The domestic pans and steamers can be utilised when need be; and the oven, with a good fire kept up, an efficient hot-air sterilizer for articles most suitable for "baking."

Asepsis may be maintained with the judicious aid of disinfectants.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors are awarded honourable mention:—Miss F. Sheppard, Miss D. Maton, Miss C. G. Cheatley, Miss D. Vine, Miss M. Wood, Miss M. Macarthy, Miss A. Sowden.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Mention some of the ways in which counter-irritation may be applied, and the methods of application.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Resolution passed at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses demanding a high quality of nursing in military auxiliary hospitals—though excluded from many London daily newspapers—has been widely published throughout the country, and has brought to the Editor of this JOURNAL a number of very interesting letters in support of our claim.

We are pleased to note that the *Seaman*, the organ of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, has something to say on the question. The Editor writes:—

They (the fighting men) certainly should be looked after in the best way imaginable, especially after they have been wounded on the field of battle. Their comfort should be first consideration, and every conceivable device resorted to in order that they be once more brought back to health.

To accomplish this, the best professional nurses should be provided on the field, for I am one of those who believe—and I speak from ex-

perience—that careful nursing is almost as important as the attention of the surgeon or physician. But, unfortunately, there has been too much evidence of late that untrained persons are being sent out under the Red Cross to nurse our wounded Tommies. To put it bluntly, society ladies and others, anxious for a new craze, are forcing themselves on the authorities, on the plea of rendering assistance as "nurses at the Front." The occupation—in time of war only—has an attraction for them by reason of its glamour, and because of this the lives of our gallant soldiers are very often jeopardised through the attention (?) of unskilled busy-bodies.

Quoting the National Council resolution, he continues:—

These, to my mind, are most admirable sentiments, and as coming from those who understand the subject should be given heed to by the War Office authorities, for they are primarily responsible for the life of every soldier who has gone, or may hereafter go to the Front. The nursing of these brave fellows should not be made an enjoyment for unqualified outsiders, however well intentioned. There are hundreds of fully-trained nurses only too anxious to go to the battle field, or anywhere else where their services may be required, and until their numbers are exhausted I contend that no unskilled hands should be allowed to touch our maimed soldiers whose lives are the most precious asset of the nation at the present moment.

The men's Trade Unions have only to come out on this question and they could settle it right away.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* seems to imagine "that because Lord Knutsford and Sir Frederick Milner, who at least have ample opportunity for judging of, and inquiring into, the truth of the indictment which has been brought forward," have rushed into print to refute it, that should settle the matter. Why? These gentlemen are not trained nurses, and their opinion is really of very little value in such a controversy. We are pleased to note, however, that the *Gazette* cordially agrees . . . "that our soldiers should be provided by the State with thoroughly skilled nursing; and that amateurs should be rigorously excluded from attendance upon them."

Dr. Angus Macphee, of Glasgow, voices our sentiments entirely in the *Glasgow Herald*. He writes:—"My suggestion is that it be made a stringent and inflexible rule that no society should choose for war nursing any nurse who has not had hospital training for at least three years. This is a suggestion quite easily adopted, and it has besides this great advantage, which should not be grudged to the brave defenders of our country, that it would ensure that only capable and efficient nurses were engaged for the work."

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