

I have not had the opportunity of testing *in vitro* the various anaërobic organisms which have been so troublesome and conspicuous in the western war area, but my clinical experience there amply proved the value of salicylic acid in destroying these organisms.

Apart from its convenience and easy application, salicylic acid has special advantages over carbolic acid or iodine. The former is hardly reliable under 5 per cent., while 2 per cent. iodine, besides being painful, has a doubtful and unproved reputation, and may lead to sloughing in damaged tissues. Security is obtained by 0.5 per cent. salicylic acid, while antiseptics actually occurs at 0.2 per cent., or 1 in 500. The fresh serum, being alkaline, takes up the full dose of salicylic acid, so that the threshold of invasion is constantly bathed in a protecting antiseptic.

PHENOMENAL PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION.

The American Journal of Nursing states that with all the imperfections of the registration laws "the amount of legislation, and the improvement in nursing education and professional status during the eleven years since the passing of the first law, is phenomenal."

It says further:—"When we consider that thirty-nine States now have some kind of law in operation for the regulation of nursing, that three new States (Maine, Alabama, and North Dakota) coming into line will bring the number up to forty-two, if their laws are passed, and that there are only forty-nine States in the Union, it will be seen that there will be only seven States without such legislation, and these are the ones without large nursing interests, with the exception of Ohio, which is prevented from securing a satisfactory law by the peculiar restrictions of the Constitution of the State."

One thing is certain: that within the next few years registration laws will be in force in every State of the Union from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

From New Zealand we hear of new regulations gazetted under the Nurses' Registration Act, providing for reciprocal training by affiliated schools. So a pupil from one hospital may be sent for periods of six months or less to other hospitals to study consumption, fevers, and other branches of nursing. How long must we wait before there is a Nurses' Registration Act in force in Britain also?

FRIEND AND FOE.

A sudden call, an equally prompt response, and four British nurses—chosen, in addition to their professional qualifications, for their command of the German language—met in the Matron's sitting-room at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, commissioned to carry out a most interesting bit of work—to act as the Nursing Staff on the ship conveying wounded and disabled German prisoners to the Continent, and to bring back our own men who have been prisoners in Germany, on the return journey. Such an opportunity of service to friend and foe makes a nurse rejoice, and count as a small thing the hard work demanded of her in the most exacting profession of her choice, when it has fitted her to give the help, of which only trained nurses are capable, to heart-sore prisoners in an alien country, and to be the first to show to our own splendid men, bruised and broken in this cruel war, through the care lavished upon them, something of the tenderness and pride with which the heart of the whole nation throbs in unison.

It was from one of the four—Miss Chittock, Sister-in-Charge of a Nursing Home in Dorset Square, W., formerly Assistant Matron at Guy's Hospital, and the Assistant Matron-elect of the Brigade Hospital to be sent abroad shortly by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem—that we heard the story of that interesting journey.

The experience of the Sisters began when from the window of the Matron's sitting-room at Millbank they saw their patients—the halt, the maimed, and the blind—brought in by an armed escort. Quickly they put their charges into the ambulances waiting to convey them to Victoria Station, and only when in the train did they learn that their destination was Folkestone, not an East Coast port, as they had imagined, and that their destination was Flushing, to which they were to be conveyed by the Dutch ship *Mecklenburg*, which also carried ordinary passengers.

They arrived at Folkestone on the evening of Monday, February 15th, and, as the boat did not sail till the following morning, they were able to get their patients comfortably settled for the night, and to give them supper, for which they had splendid appetites. Amongst the 104 was a spinal case, practically paralysed; some eye cases, but none blind in both eyes, and a good many on crutches; but on the whole they were in good condition, there were no dressings which needed changing, the men were satisfied with the treatment which had

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)