AN ACT OF HEROISM.

The mortality and mutilation caused by gas gangrene during the present war has been one of the complications of wounds which the medical profession has sought by all means to avert, and Dr. Taylor, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund devised a remedy which he believed to be an antidote, but no proof of this was possible, as it had not been tested on any human being. It remained for Miss Katherine Mary G. Davies, who has been working as a bacteriologist at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, to risk her life by injecting herself with the poison of gas gangrene, after which she communicated with Dr. Taylor, under whose direction she was at once removed to the American Hospital, where she was subjected to treatment with the antidote to the toxin. Had this not been efficacious Miss Davies would probably have paid the penalty of her heroism with her life, but happily the antidote, which appears to be a solution of hydrochloride of quinine, was completely successful, and she has the reward of knowing that her unselfish devotion will have the result of saving the lives of many brave men who can now be treated with confidence with the remedy which has proved successful in her own case.

MISS KATHERINE M. G. DAVIES,
BACTERIOLOGIST, PASTEUR INSTITUTE, PARIS.

It is difficult to imagine the feelings of a young and beautiful woman before deciding to risk one of the most terrible forms of death, not in the excitement of the battlefield, but deliberately in the calm atmosphere of the research laboratory. It is heroism of the highest type. It was at first announced that Miss Davies was a trained nurse. This proves to be incorrect, but trained nurses will appreciate her deed at its full value and acclaim her self-sacrifice in risking her life to prove a fact of scientific importance.

We are indebted to the Editor of *The Gentlewoman* for the portrait of Miss Davies, which appears on this page.

FRACTURE APPARATUS.

Those who visited the Exhibition of Fracture Apparatus by Officers of the R.A.M.C., at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., between October 8th and October 13th, will realize the great advance made in the branch of medical science illustrated by this exhibition, more especially if they were fortunate enough to hear a clinical lecture on the form and application of the splints and other appliances, by their designer.

Major Meurice Sinclair, R.A.M.C., of No. 7 Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, lectured in the most illuminating and fascinating way on the principles of mobilization of splints by weight suspension, and the use of metal supports in the treatment of compound fractures, explaining these principles by reference to the models exhibited; nor did he forget to explain the special points of nursing interest for the benefit of the members of the nursing profession present.

Thus, by means of the Sinclair Universal Leg Suspension, a travelling cradle allows the patient to move up and down the bed for his own comfort; to raise and lower his own pelvis in order to alter points of pressure; and to obtain change of position for nursing purposes. Splints of perforated zinc are carefully modelled to suit each individual case, the frame work being supplied by the Medical Supply Association, Gray's Inn Road. The sterilized zinc is applied directly to the leg, and can be kept in position for weeks. If it is desired to clean it, cotton wool, moistened with peroxide of hydrogen, on forceps, in gently passed between the leg and the splint, followed by methylated spirit. Continuous irrigation can be applied with these splints.

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