

tory of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—established as the *Nursing Record* in the interests of the patients and the nurses.

The fight of aggrieved members of a Company of Surgeons, which acted illegally with its authorities, and the subsequent promotion of a Bill in Parliament to legalise what had happened, and to reconstruct the Company as a College, is of particular interest to nurses, who have had their own experience in regard to the introduction of Bills into Parliament on matters affecting their interests without their knowledge or consent. This Bill passed unnoticed through the House of Commons, and was in its final stage before the Lords, before it was discovered and thrown out.

The employers' Bill for the subjection of the Nursing Profession many years later was introduced into the House of Lords in the first instance, and thrown out through the good offices of Lord Amptill, on the petition of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Here the analogy diverges.

In the case of trained nurses, the details of their successful fight for a Royal Charter granted in 1893 to the Royal British Nurses' Association, in spite of the opposition of hospital authorities, has been put on record in the pages of this Journal. It was more than twenty years later that a Company was formed as the College of Nursing, Ltd., to undermine the self-dependence of the nurses. The Company dare not apply to the Board of Trade for incorporation without the word "Limited," as the strong opposition it would have to meet would have rendered such an attempt hopeless. But it tried, and very nearly succeeded, to absorb the Royal British Nurses' Association, in order that it might have the prestige conferred by its Charter, and the title "Royal." In this case the nurses roused themselves at the eleventh hour and circumvented the plot.

In 1834 Thomas Wakley, desiring to represent the interests of his profession in Parliament, vacated the editorial chair for a seat in the House of Commons as member for Finsbury, but it was not until 1846 that he brought in a Bill for amending the law relating to the practice of medicine in Great Britain and Ireland, and the *Lancet* scheme for medical reform led to the Act under which the General Council of Medical Education and Registration was created.

Having fought its good fight, the *Lancet* is now a journal of national and international importance of an educational character, and the self-governing profession of medicine has its own fighting organ.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

IN A CHILDREN'S WARD HOW WOULD YOU DEAL WITH (a) SCABIES, (b) PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS, (c) THREADWORMS IN RECTUM?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Phœbe Goddard, S.R.N., North-Western Hospital, Lawn Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

PRIZE PAPER.

When it has been found that a child in a children's ward is suffering from *Scabies*, the child would be put on "bed isolation." By this treatment the risk of infecting others would be reduced to a minimum.

Bed Isolation.—All feeding utensils used by a patient suffering from *Scabies* would be marked with her name or number of bed, and would be kept for the patient's sole use. After use, these utensils are boiled and kept separately in a place reserved only for their use.

All utensils used for excretions are marked, and, after use, disinfected by washing them first with soap and water and then placed in 1 in 20 carbolic acid for twenty minutes. The patient would be given a warm bath, using plenty of soap, and scrubbing; twenty minutes at least should be given to this. Then some parasiticide is well rubbed into the skin all over the body. Sulphur ointment often is ordered (this is left on all night), a clean nightdress put on, and clean bed linen. This process is repeated for three consecutive nights, which is usually sufficient to kill the parasite, but often some irritation of the skin remains, and some soothing lotion is needed. After attending to the patient, the nurse must be most careful in well scrubbing her hands before going to another patient.

The clothing used by the patient suffering from *Scabies* should be marked and sent to the disinfectant before being sent to the laundry.

Pediculosis Capitis.—Care must be taken to keep everything used for the patient's hair for her own use.

Treatment.—Carbolic, 1 in 40. This is applied to the hair by means of the small tooth comb, and if in a bad condition, a carbolic cap may be left on the head for twenty-four hours.

Naphthol ointment may be used, but some soothing lotion is often needed to allay irritation. Best of all, a *Sassafras cap* may be applied. Apply vaseline to forehead and in front and behind ears; place rag over these parts; then, taking great care to see that none

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)