

There are points for and against its use, but anyone used to it should not be deprived of it and it is an excellent stimulant when the heart shows signs of failure; the weakening of the heart and circulatory failure account for more deaths than consolidation of the lung. The condition of the pulse gives a real prognosis. The character of the pulse during the disease and after the crisis were discussed. The pulse often gives the indication as to whether the crisis has been a true one; if the pulse does not drop with the temperature the crisis has been a false one. Especially the doctor emphasised the importance of observing the rhythm and volume of the pulse; it is likely to be full and bounding at the commencement of the disease, becoming smaller and weaker as the illness progresses. Irregularity in the rhythm of the pulse, especially when it occurs early in the disease, is a grave sign, so also is irregularity in its force, and when this is suspected the nurse should call up the doctor at once; if irregularity of force occurs before the crisis the case is likely to prove fatal. The blood pressure may remain satisfactory throughout the illness or there may be a fall in the systolic blood pressure; if it falls below the count of the pulse rate this is a very serious symptom, except where the blood pressure is normally high, as for instance in the aged. Other bad signs are pallor followed by cyanosis, dyspnoea, weak rapid pulse, shallow respiration, subnormal temperature and mental disturbances. One point of great importance is to bear in mind the fact that for the first week after the crisis the heart is still very weak, for it shares in the general exhaustion of the body; indifference to this fact has been known to result in sudden death.

On Saturday, April 25th, at 3 p.m., Mrs. Atherton Earp, S.R.N., will give a lecture at 194, Queen's Gate, on "My Grandmother's Simples."

**MRS. HAMILTON GIBSON, S.R.N.,
M.R.B.N.A., F.B.C.N.**

Mrs. Hamilton Gibson, whose portrait we are pleased to be able to insert, has been an active Member of the Association for many years. As Miss Emma Aughton she joined it soon after her training at the Hahnemann Hospital, Liverpool, where, before leaving to take up work in London in 1911, she had, on several occasions, acted as deputy-matron. She worked in a West End nursing home for a short time, but decided to see something of the Quinton Polyclinics in Paris and went out to study there. On her return she was appointed Lady Superintendent of the London Quinton Sea Water Dispensary, of which the late Princess Christian was Patroness. Her gifts of organisation and imagination, her ability and kindness, proved of the greatest value to the institution, and it made rapid progress under her administration. The

patients were devoted to her, and with irresistible humour she used to retail many anecdotes of her pioneer days at the Clinic.

No one was more enthusiastic than Miss Aughton when we first conceived the idea of founding a Club in connection with the Association; and she may be regarded as our first adventurer into this particular sphere of activity, for, when her late Royal Highness the Princess Christian announced that those who intended to join the proposed Club should be permitted to become Life Members, on payment of the sum of £10 within a short, stipulated period, Miss Aughton was the only one to take advantage of this proposal, and so at present she enjoys the distinction of being the only Life Member of the Club. "So great was her faith" say we, and speculate upon what would have been our position had this castle in the air—the R.B.N.A.

Club—never materialised; but she is always the first to repudiate many a laughing criticism on her "rashness" or "extravagant credulity." And she certainly had, once and for all, the best of the argument and justified her action up to the hilt when one day, just a year or two after we opened the Club at 194, Queen's Gate, she came to arrange for her wedding to take place there! Such a happy wedding party it was too, and all the good wishes offered by her colleagues have come true, for we know no two people who live a happier life or share more pleasantly one another's interests in the outside world than Mr. Hamilton Gibson, O.B.E., M.I.C.E., and his attractive wife.

Mrs. Gibson lives outside London, but no one attends more regularly the meetings of the Council and those Committees upon which she has a seat; she is always a most welcome guest at all our social gatherings, and her bright face and happy smile call forth many an answering smile of friendship as she enters the room. People appreciate, too, the loyalty of the

friendship which she offers them, and however often the one and only Life Member of the Club may ascend her pedestal and view the rest of us from what she evidently regards as an Olympian height, we are not able to see that the position is the economic and privileged one she would have us believe, for no one gives more generously to all and every enterprise which her Association finds it good to undertake.

RAMBLE.

We are arranging a drive, following the river, to Oxford for Thursday, 16th April. The return journey will also be through very beautiful country. For particulars please apply to the office of the Association.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.



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