

scheme, therefore, of the Hospitals' Association collapsed, and, in the words of the *Lancet*, was a total *fiasco*. Thereupon the Association issued a circular to thirty-four training schools for Nurses, asking for information—six months, be it noted, after they had propounded their conclusions. The results of this circular have been so misquoted that it is important to realise what really happened. Of the thirty-four Hospitals, *fifteen took no notice* at all of the inquiry. Of the *nineteen* Hospitals which answered the first question—as to whether they considered a system of Registration of Nurses desirable—*nine* expressed themselves in favour of such a system, and *the remaining ten desired "to be let alone."* Could anything be more significant and less conclusive? Yet, on this ridiculously incomplete verdict, the Hospitals' Association founded the statement that the Hospitals were opposed to the Registration of Nurses, and so covered, as well as it could, its retreat from the untenable position which it had assumed, and, rather late in the day, avowed its intention to leave the subject alone.

It is hardly credible that, within six months, a commercial undertaking—the National Pension Fund for Nurses—promoted by this same Mr. Burdett, and this same Hospitals' Association, introduced into its legal Memorandum of Association powers to enable this Insurance Company to undertake the work of Registration of Nurses, and Mr. Burdett publicly stated that these powers would be utilized if the opportunity occurred.

To emphasize still further the nature of the opposition to the Registration scheme of the Royal British Nurses' Association, it is only necessary to add that Dr. BRISTOWE, of St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. BRYANT and Dr. STEELE, of Guy's Hospital, and others, who have taken, or are taking, a prominent part in opposing the Registration work of Association, were either signatories to this Memorandum of Association, or are members of the Council of the Insurance Company which has taken these powers to institute a Registration of Nurses on its own account.

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BY C. J. S. THOMPSON,

Author of "The Art of Dispensing."

PART II.—MINOR ACCIDENTS

CHAPTER I

(Continued from page 432)

SCRATCHES, BRUISES, ABRASIONS, CUTS, AND WOUNDS.

Scratches.—A very small scratch, when the skin is torn and lacerated, often gives a great deal of annoyance and pain. Gently bathe the part with warm water, dry it carefully, and then paint over with Collodion, or cover it with a piece of gold beaters' skin.

Bruises.—The discolouration of the skin which usually follows a blow or fall, is due to the rupture of the tissues under the surface and the effusion of blood into them, which causes the discoloured appearance. In ordinary cases, when the bruise is not severe, and unaccompanied by swelling, the simple application of cold water on a pad of lint to the part will give relief. If the skin is unbroken dilute two teaspoonfuls of tincture of arnica with half a tumbler of water. This solution applied constantly to the part will be found to reduce the swelling and ease the pain. Should the part be much swollen, an application made by adding two teaspoonfuls of laudanum to half-a-pint of Goulard water, will rapidly take away the swelling and stiffness. Pieces of lint or old linen should be kept saturated with this lotion, and allowed to remain over the swollen part. When the skin is broken, a tablespoonful of laudanum mixed with a teacupful of warm water, and applied as described above, forms a soothing application.

Abrasions.—Abrasions are generally caused by a fall—concussion with some rough object that scrapes and lacerates the skin, usually over a bone—and are often very sore and painful. The part should first be gently bathed with warm water, washed free from all dirt or grit, then carbolie oil applied on lint, and kept over the part by means of a bandage. Boracic ointment applied in the same manner also forms a cool dressing.

Cuts and Wounds.—In proceeding to dress and render first aid to a clean cut, or wound that has been made by some sharp instrument, the first thing to do is to endeavour to stop the bleeding. In simple cases this can be speedily done by placing

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