

after a lapse of eighty years, Aluminum is being produced commercially by the electric current.

Various means have been sought to extract Aluminum cheaply from clays and rocks in which it is found in such abundance, but on account of its refractory nature, without marked success, until within a few months. The difficulty and expense of producing Aluminum, together with the greater difficulty of employing it in the arts, as it could not be cast, welded, or soldered, discouraged the employment of capital in its production, and hence it was only produced by chemists in a small way as a thing of curiosity or a novelty, and not of general use in the arts. It therefore has remained for a solution of the difficulty of working Aluminum, easily and cheaply, to create a demand for this wonderful metal which scientists and artisans recognized as possessing peculiar properties that would place it in the front rank of all metals if a successful method of working could be devised.

Among the properties to be named that mark Aluminum is, its extreme lightness, being only one-tenth the weight of platinum. Like platinum and gold, it possesses the royal properties of not oxidizing or tarnishing by exposure to air, or of being acted upon by nitric or sulphuric acid. Unlike silver, copper and iron, it is not acted upon by sulphur, and hence does not turn black like silver and copper, or red like iron when exposed to sulphuric vapors.

Aluminum is very malleable and may be forged or rolled as perfectly as gold or silver. It is beaten into as thin leaves as either of these metals, as no other useful metal can be, and is now largely used instead of gold and silver for decorating, as it is much more durable than silver and less expensive by far than either of the others.

It is very ductile and can be drawn into exceedingly fine wire that by annealing becomes very flexible and tenacious.

TRAINING OF NURSES.

Until a comparatively recent date, the subject of training nurses received but little attention, and the important duty of caring for the sick was left to some member of the family who was supposed to have a natural gift for nursing; "but that time is past," says a writer in *Scribner*, "and now no one who can afford a trained nurse thinks of taking a patient through an illness without one, any more than a captain willingly

takes his ship through a dangerous channel without a pilot."

That good nurses are important is undisputed. Every physician will agree that he can only indicate the proper means by which to effect the patient's recovery, and that good nursing is essential in order that his directions may be properly carried out, and the patient's health be promoted by every possible means.

In regard to a patient's recovery from an extreme case of sickness, I once heard the physician who attended the sufferer say that it was not his medical skill that effected the cure, but the excellent nursing the patient had received all through her illness.

Again a young lady was stricken with diphtheria, as was also a young gentleman that lived near, and they were both attended by the same physician. The young lady was cared for by the best of nurses, while the man was taken care of by persons whose intentions were good, but whose knowledge of nursing was sadly deficient; and the result was death for him and recovery for the young lady. After his death the physician said that of the two cases the young lady's was really the more dangerous, and had the gentleman received half the nursing that she had, his recovery would have been effected as well as hers.

In order that a woman might become skilled in nursing, it was found necessary to organize schools where she might receive the proper training. It is the duty of every nurse to see that the sick-room is properly ventilated, and kept at the right temperature. If the room is too cold the patient is liable to become chilled, and if it is too warm, he is all the more liable to take cold. This requires great skill on the part of the nurse. The invalid's food must be prepared with great care; when his bed is made he must be well wrapped up or he will take cold; and many more things of equal importance must be looked after by the nurse. All things of this kind, girls are taught in training schools.

The first school of this kind in the United States was the Bellevue Training School, which was organized May 1, 1873. It began work with a superintendent and five nurses, and now its pupils number sixty-two, and three hundred and forty-five have been graduated.

Besides this there are in New York three other large schools, and several small ones. If a girl has any talent whatever for nursing, and if she tries faithfully, there is no reason why she should