

defy time and prudence, and must be taken and guided, but cannot be postponed or prevented. This crisis has come to the workers in the Nursing world. It may have come more quickly than we wished; our minds, it may be urged, would have been better prepared by more discussion and dissemination of the ideas of its promoters; but it has come, and has to be dealt with. The Association has gone beyond mere chimerical dreaming; it is a fast increasing factor to be taken into account, and which cannot be ignored. To these waiting ones we would say, What is gained by waiting? If you do not come forward others will, and in ever enlarging numbers, for nothing in this world succeeds like success. Others will step into the places that you ought to fill, other counsels will prevail where your voice ought to be heard, other representatives will command the local interest that is yours by right; all this you are letting slip out of your hands, and for what? For another year the British Nurses' Association will admit its members under the same conditions as it has hitherto done; but during this year it will be consolidating its strength, and be suggesting and deciding on matters of professional importance, which should be settled by the collective wisdom of the leaders of the Nursing world. We would therefore most earnestly appeal to those who are merely onlookers, to consider their position well, and question with themselves whether they are acting in the best way for themselves and their profession. The B.N.A. will not be contented until it embraces the whole Nursing profession; judging from the great results already achieved, the time is not far distant when this consummation will be reached. It is a simple arithmetical sum: if out of fifteen thousand persons, four hundred become members of the Association every month, how long will it be before every Nurse has joined it?

#### "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

FROM all accounts suffering humanity will soon have the chance of protecting itself against another disease by means of vaccination. Two French medical men, Drs. Roux and Veroin, attached to the Pasteur Institute, claim to have discovered the microbe, or microscopic cause, of diphtheria. This is described as being of a greyish white colour, about the same length as the bacillus found in cases of tuberculosis, but thicker and rounded at the ends. It is a dainty microbe, with a predilection, it would appear, for veal broth as its soil of cultivation. It seems to secrete some poison which acts on the surrounding medium, because broth in which these microbes have been cultivated is still poisonous,

even after they have been removed. Veal broth, so prepared, was administered in varying quantities to animals, with the result that some succumbed, with all the symptoms of diphtheria, in forty-eight hours; others who were given smaller doses died after a longer period, apparently of paralysis of the respiratory muscles.

Everything seems to point to a good time coming when we shall be enabled to protect ourselves against all the ills that flesh is heir to by the simple process of multiplied vaccination.

Then the burning question of the survival of the fittest will be settled in the first year or so of our existence, for the lucky infant who has survived the inoculation period will face the world with the cheerful consciousness of having not only proved its robust constitution by undergoing a series of ailments to which the old-fashioned trial of teething will be a mere trifle, but also of being protected against most of the untoward and unexpected accidents which cut short the career of nineteenth century humanity.

#### MEDICINE AND NURSING.

THE attempt to mend the watch with the hidden mainspring will alter with the views of each patcher or mender who has an original idea concerning the same hidden mainspring, and so fashions in treatment come and fashions in treatment go, but Nursing goes on for ever.

Doctors may bleed and purge in one generation, feed and stimulate in the next; one may wrap a rheumatism patient in blankets and apply hot-water bottles, while another will place him in an ice pack; snails, slugs, and dead men's bones may be gravely ordered by the faculty in one century, salicylate of soda, quinine, and anti-pyrine may be in vogue in the next; one generation of medicos may stifle a fever or small-pox case in scarlet blankets with hermetically-sealed windows, the next will blow him almost out of bed with the most approved ventilators; epileptics may have incantations to the devil read over them in one phase of science, while their skulls are trephined to search for the hidden cause in the age of brain surgery. But always and ever will the sick man require to be nursed, to be gently lifted, his bed carefully made, his food well prepared, his weakness considered, his wants unselfishly attended to.

The scientific efforts of the Doctors to cure or heal must be supplemented by the intelligent effort of the Nurse to apply the remedies prescribed in the best manner possible. It is not her duty to question the directions she may receive, but only to obey them.

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