

to do with." He thinks their proceedings "subversive of all order," and that these "should be met by instant dismissal." This ridiculous piece of bombast appears to have caused considerable indignation, instead of, as we should have expected, hilarious amusement. The notion of medical men having nothing to do with Nursing matters and Nurses, is as supremely absurd as a staid citizen of Glasgow, at the end of the nineteenth century, adopting the rôle of the Chess Queen in "Alice in Wonderland," and vociferating in hectoring tones, "Off with his head."

#### "ONE GERM'S MEAT."

SURELY one of the strangest developments of an ancient proverb is contained in the latest news from Paris. M. Lortel, the well-known chemist, has been engaged in studying the Dead Sea. The waters of that lake being, by general repute, fatal to every kind of animal life, it occurred to the French savant that they would be bad for germs, and therefore make an admirable antiseptic lotion for surgical use. He therefore collected the microbes supposed to be special to various diseases, and turned them into the strongest specimen of Dead Sea water which he possessed. The germs of diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, small-pox, and many other fell animalcules were thus experimented upon. The result was so far conclusive that all the germs died except two, but these twain so flourished and multiplied that in forty-eight hours there were more germs than Dead Sea in that receptacle. And it may be taken as conclusive that the stagnant waters of that lonely lake will never be largely used in surgery, nor make the fortune of speculators eager to convert its germicide properties to the good of suffering humanity, and into an excuse for floating on its buoyant waves—a limited liability company. For one germ which flourished was shaped like the clapper of a bell, and the other was like a tack nail with a round head. The first, says M. Lortel, was the microbe of lock-jaw, and the second was that of gangrene.

#### A VERY PRACTICAL AMBULANCE CLASS.

IT is not often that a Doctor is able to test the value of his ambulance lectures in such a prompt, practical manner as Dr. Tritton, of Umyinto, when examining his class at Ladismith, in Natal. Just as the meeting was dispersing, after a theoretical examination, news was brought of an accident on the Free State Extension Line, in which both driver and fireman had been injured. A special train containing Dr. Tritton and his class, with another local Doctor, was promptly despatched to the scene of the accident, where (says the *Natal Mercury*) "the ambulance staff rendered good service by ably carrying out the Doctors' orders, conveying the men to the brake-van, and, on arrival at Ladismith, removing them home." It was an unfor-

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fortunate occurrence, as far as the driver and fireman were concerned, but an excellent practical lesson for the class.

#### NURSING PAPER IN HOLLAND.

THERE is a paper devoted to Nursing matters published at Amsterdam, which contains, this month, several very interesting articles—notably, one on Nurse's dress, from which it appears that private Nurses in Holland have not yet decided as to whether or not they will wear uniform when at work, and the writer severely criticises the fashionable garb and high-heeled shoes in which some Nurses arrive at their cases. But the feeling against wearing uniform seems to owe a good deal to the overstrained reaction against the excessive rigour on that point of the deaconesses' and kindred religious institutions, who until lately had all the Nursing in their own hands. The tone of the whole paper points clearly how the professional point of view of Nursing is gaining ground. One question from a correspondent shows that the views in Holland—as was to be expected from so practical a people—on the length of training required for a Certificated Nurse are very sound. A Nurse writes to know whether it is absolutely necessary that she should go through a two years' course of theoretical study as well as two years' practical training before obtaining the White Cross diploma; would not perhaps one year's steady study, combined with two years' practical work, be enough? I look forward with interest to next month's answer. There is a bright and well-written article on Scotch Hospitals, which, coming as it does in the midst of the Glasgow Inquiry, is interesting. The Editor also speaks highly of our Brighton Holiday Home as an undertaking worthy of imitation, though the Baroness Van Pallandel generously provides a holiday at her country house for a number of Nursing Deaconesses. *The Nursing Record* Post Card Examinations are commented upon, and the Pension Fund. Altogether it is a very bright and readable paper.

#### MILITARY RANK AND ARMY SISTERS.

THE military titles that will for the future appertain to Medical Men and Veterinary Surgeons in the Army are delightfully polysyllabic and imposing; but why, in these days of woman's rights, are the claims of the Army Sisters and Nurses to enjoy military rank overlooked? Why should not they rejoice in imposing titles as well as the male non-combatant branches of the service? The Army orderlies are privates, corporals, and sergeants—why should not the Sisters be lieutenants, captains, and colonels? The choice of titles that should combine professional and military rank so happily as to hurt no susceptibilities, opens a pleasing and wide field for speculation and argument. Sister-Superintendent - Lieutenant - Colonel, for instance, would not sound amiss; in fact, in point of length and stateliness, it leaves little to be desired, and if with the relative rank the Sisters also received proportionate pay, few would be found to grumble at the length of their names.

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