

tiny bacilli which yearly cause more death than the armies of the world combined. Under the glass of one of the tubes is a pale grey spot not more than a quarter of an inch in diameter, growing lighter toward its centre. On it is the Latin label 'Spirillus Cholerae Asiaticae.' A single glance tells the dreadful story of the pest which last summer swept Europe and caused a thrill of terror to penetrate even to the confines of Chicago. In the next tube rests a yellowish white germ of filmy texture and almost transparent. Three words full of meaning to those who have sat by the bedside of a dying child mark it as one of the greatest enemies of the human race: 'Bacillus diphtheria colomb.' Turning across the aisle there is a feeling of satisfaction on seeing on a slender test tube, 'tox albumen—substance for protecting against diphtheria,' for Dr. Koch and his co-laborers are not working merely for the purpose of bringing to light the active agents in malignant and contagious diseases. All their efforts are devoted, after they have discovered and identified the poison, to finding its antidote, and as inoculation has already proved efficacious as a protection against smallpox and rabies, so these German professors are working toward the time when the terrors of cholera and other plagues will be things of the past. To the farmer who comes from his cornfield to see the glories of the Exposition, there will be a familiar look about one of the glasses in this grim and ghastly collection. It contains simply a little yellowish-brown button of semi-transparent texture, and the label on it, translated into English, confesses that it has been the bar which has kept the great American hog from invading Germany. As the German scientist puts it, it is the 'Bacillus of the American pork disease,' and when Dr. Koch has completed his labours along this line, Uncle Reuben will be able to go into his hogpen and vaccinate each animal with a virus which will make the germs of trichinae feel weary unto death. But these dreadful engines of destruction and their antidotes, so far as discovered, are not the only interesting feature of the exhibit which comes from Dr. Koch's famous Institute for Contagious Diseases in the German Capital. On tables about the walls of the little alcove are curious brass instruments, with which the playful bacillus is detected in his native lair and dragged to the light of the microscope. There are minute measuring machines by which the height and breadth and depth of the tiny microbes are recorded. There are microscopes of such high magnifying power that the bacillus tuberculosis avium and his fellows are forced to reveal the inmost secrets of their tiny anatomies. With other instruments Dr. Koch can almost feel the

pulse of these minute destroyers, and if they are not feeling well can prescribe the proper remedies. For the Herr Doctor does not seek out these germs to destroy them. He rather furnishes for them the most favourable conditions for their culture and development, studying meanwhile the environment which most quickly kills them. It is his purpose to learn all about each one of these pets of his in order that he may the more surely render them innocuous. What has already been accomplished in the way of providing antidotes and remedies is shown in a long line of test tubes which contain substances which in a more or less degree are preventives of the various diseases. In this modest collection lies one of the greatest hopes which humanity cherishes for the future, and out of this simple beginning may yet come a panacea which will banish the greatest and most universal enemy of man. In charge of the exhibit is Herr Doctor Richard Pfeiffer of Berlin, who is one of the assistants of Dr. Koch.

\* \* \*

I HEAR that the Home for Paying Patients and for Trained Nurses, started in Minehead, Somerset, by Miss MARION PINCOFFS, is earning golden opinions amongst all classes in its neighbourhood. A Daily Nurse has been started under the following sensible Rules, which may be commended to any Home which thinks of having similar workers:—

- 1.—Her duties to be confined to washing and dressing patient, making the bed, dressing wounds, applying surgical treatment (under medical direction), or any nursing for the immediate comfort of the patient.
- 2.—These visits may be repeated in the evening if desired.
- 3.—A "Night" is to consist of not more than twelve hours; food of a substantial nature to be provided for the Nurse.
- 4.—Attendance at operation includes preparing patient and room for the same, assisting surgeons, and clearing away afterwards.
- 5.—The Nurse is to leave a written report for the medical attendant of any matter of which he ought to be made acquainted.
- 6.—The Nurse will visit within the radius of a mile of the "Cottage" without extra charge, but over the mile, carriage fare will be charged.
- 7.—The employer incurs no further responsibility.
- 8.—No infectious cases will be attended.

\* \* \*

WE advise all Nurses to read an article which appeared in Tuesday's *Pall Mall Gazette*, headed "The Truth about the London Hospital," every word of which we believe to be true.

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)