

continued, to increase. An equally significant, though more theoretical, evidence of improvement is afforded by the statement, that while the patient was taking cinnamon the number of tubercle bacilli found in the sputum steadily diminished. Various attempts have been made to explain these results, and the most reasonable suggestion appears to be that the oil of cinnamon really acts as a germicide and practically destroys the bacilli, thus preventing the extension of the disease, and enabling the tissues already affected to defend themselves with greater power against the enfeebled bacilli that remained. The effect of the drug upon the secretion of the bronchial tubes must also play a prominent part in its success. By diminishing the quantity of secretion, and therefore the cough, the patient's strength must be saved materially. At any rate, the results already reported are so favourable that it is possible to hope that further employment of the drug will afford still greater evidence of its usefulness.

POWDERS IN EAR DISEASE.

ONE of the best methods of modern treatment of ear disease is the application to the affected surface, by means of insufflators, of various medicated powders—drying up and disinfecting surfaces which perhaps have been allowed to suppurate for long periods of time. By this means, therefore, the antiseptic system can be carried out with safety and success; but it has been recently pointed out that the manner in which the treatment is carried out is all important. The affected surface is, of course, but small, and the discharge must not only be disinfected but must be allowed to have free exit, or the treatment will do harm rather than good. It has been reported recently that some nurses, unaware perhaps of the anatomy of the delicate middle ear, or of the *rationale* of the treatment they were carrying out, have not been contented with gently dusting a thin film of the powder by blowing it upon the inflamed surface, but have shovelled a large quantity of it pell-mell down the ear, blocking up the canal, thus damming up the discharge from it, and so causing its accumulation in dangerous proximity to the brain. In one such case, this was followed first by extreme and increasing pain, and then by the occurrence of meningitis, the patient being made most dangerously ill, and only recovering after a severe and lengthened illness.

Nursing Politics.

MEMBERS of the Royal British Nurses' Association who possess any sense of self-respect, and appreciation of professional responsibility, will learn with sincere regret that Miss Martha Farquharson, the widely respected Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, and late Local Honorary Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association in Victoria, has resigned her membership of the Association, and that many Melbourne members intend to adopt the same course.

MISS FARQUHARSON has most courteously given her reasons for resignation to those of her matron colleagues who are professionally interested in her withdrawal from the Chartered Corporation, and excellent reasons they are. Miss Farquharson considers that the conduct of the affairs by the present Executive Committee is in direct opposition to the principles upon which the British Nurses' Association was founded, notably the mutual co-operation of nurses and the improvement of their profession, efficiency and usefulness, thus embodied in the Royal Charter. "That the Association was not established for the purpose of gain, but for the purposes of the improvement of the profession of nurses and of the promotion of their efficiency and usefulness," and "that a permanent Association, formed for the purpose of *maintaining a closer connection among persons practising as nurses*, and thereby insuring mutual counsel, comfort, and support . . . is likely to prove of much public benefit . . . and that such purposes would be better insured by the incorporation of such an Association."

MISS FARQUHARSON considers that the present management of the Association is diametrically opposed to the privileges thus specially granted to trained members of the nursing profession, and she can no longer remain a member of the Association, and so tacitly give her support to a policy which is in opposition to the best interests of nurses and the progress of nursing as a profession. Her colleagues deeply deplore her loss, but sympathise entirely with her decision to sever her connection with an Association of Nurses absolutely controlled by the Honorary Medical Officers and their medical colleagues, who have, during the past three years, outraged every sense of justice held by those independent members who are not under their personal control, and who do not owe their employment to their patronage.

As one after another of our intelligent and conscientious Matrons withdraws from the Association, the disastrous failure of the Association becomes more and more complete. The rights and

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