

the head of a nursing institution dependent on public support to take an active part in local politics is a totally different question.

NURSES AND MEDICAL ETHICS.

A point of considerable importance to nurses was raised at a recent meeting of the Armidale Hospital, New South Wales. The matter under discussion was the application of a medical man to be made a member of the hospital staff, and thus be placed in the same position as other local practitioners, by being enabled to admit and treat patients in the hospital. A resolution supporting the application having been proposed and seconded, Dr. Harris, by request, said that if the appointment were made, the new member of the staff would probably have to carry on the hospital by himself. He was a man whom members of the British Medical Association were not supposed to meet, because he belonged to certain Friendly Societies which the Association considered inimical to the interests of the profession. The majority of the medical men of the State were members of the Association, and there would be great difficulty if assistance were required in getting any of them to fill a position in the hospital in conjunction with the applicant.

The point to which we desire to direct special attention is this, that it was stated during the discussion that if the appointment were made, the Matron, as a member of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, would probably have to resign also.

We do not find in the Constitution of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association any provision which implies that it is incumbent on the members to identify themselves with medical ethics. On the contrary, it is highly undesirable that they should adopt such a course. It would be most unseemly for Matrons or nurses to be mixed up with medical differences, and we should strongly deprecate any such action.

Another point which may well be brought forward is this: Supposing that the Matron of this or another hospital, being a member of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, considered it incumbent for any reason to resign her appointment as a protest; would all the medical staff feel themselves bound to support her by resigning also? We think not. *Non possumus* would be the answer to any such suggestion, and who would blame the medical men concerned? Nurses will be well advised to leave the medical profession to settle its own differences, and not to meddle therein.

Medical Matters.

A SPECIFIC AGAINST SEA-SICKNESS.



From time to time we hear of new specifics against sea-sickness. The latest is reported from Rome, and it is stated that the Royal Naval Academy at Leghorn, and one of the Italian steamship companies, are making trial of a new specific against this distressing complaint.

The remedy consists in a hydro-electric bath invented by Dr. Maggioroni, who has found it efficacious against other forms of nausea. So far, excellent results are said to have been obtained from this treatment when applied to sea-sickness.

ACTION OF CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE ON THE KIDNEYS.

Dr. Aldo Tartarini Gallerani (*Lo Sperimentale*, June, 1904) has studied the subject of calcareous degeneration of the kidneys after mercurial poisoning, and has experimented on rabbits by injections of sublimate directly into the cortex of the kidney, a method used only by himself. It has been long known that mercurial poisoning produces a subacute parenchymatous nephritis. Following this, calcareous infarcts are to be found in the cortex. The calcium salts are deposited in the epithelial cells. As to how these salts are deposited, there are two theories:—(1) That there is first a necrosis followed by calcareous degeneration, and (2) that the salts are dissolved from the bones and then deposited in the kidneys. His conclusions from experiments are that, if sublimate be injected into the renal cortex, there is produced a deposit of lime salts in the canaliculi about the seat of injection. This occurs only after some days and following phenomena of necrosis of the cortical elements. These phenomena are similar to those observed after the drug has been injected into the blood.

PROPHYLAXIS OF YELLOW FEVER.

Dr. E. V. Bessawitz presents in the *Münchener med. Woch.* certain good suggestions for prophylaxis against this disease, which are based on Finley's theory of its communicability. It devolves upon the Government to destroy the breeding places of mosquitoes, which are to-day recognised as at least one of the intermediate hosts of the specific disease-producing factors, and also to isolate and protect the

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