

the Federal Parliament before it as its goal from its formation.

Queensland is at present grappling with an epidemic of that most painful disease dengue fever, so its nurses are at present unable to turn their attention to matters of organisation. We trust, however, that it will not be long before we are able to report that the Nursing Associations of United Australia are throwing all their energies into obtaining the legal status which their colleagues in other colonies have already obtained, and which those in the Mother Country are striving to win.

Annotations.

THE CAUSES OF LUNACY.

One of the most serious problems which confronts the nation at the present time is the increase of lunacy. The causes of this calamity are matters of vital concern, and the statistics published by the County of Middlesex in an annual report just issued are, therefore, of great interest.

Apart from heredity, and "previous attack," the causes of insanity in the County of Middlesex are stated to be as follows:—

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|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Intemperance in drink... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Adverse circumstances... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Domestic trouble (5 males, 23 females) | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Old age... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Fright ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Love affairs (4 males, 7 females) | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Religious excitement ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

In regard to the classes affected, the list of males is headed by labourers with 38, the next being clerks with 18.

On the female side there are 100 women of no occupation, 98 housewives, 34 domestic servants, 11 charwomen, 9 laundresses, and 1 actress.

The death rate is 9.6 per cent. and the rate of recovery 42 per cent.

One phase of the treatment of lunacy which deserves attention is that at present patients suffering from mental diseases can only be received into asylums when certified insane, that is when the disease is well established. The treatment of the disease in its incipient stages, that is to say, when there is the greatest hope of successfully dealing with it, is at present ill provided for, and is a point which might well receive the attention of experts.

Medical Matters.

DISINFECTION OF THE FAUCES IN SCARLATINA.



Dr. D. Seibert advocates the employment of a 50 per cent. resorcin alcohol solution for the disinfection of the fauces in scarlatina when exudation appears therein. The application is effected by the introduction, first to one side of the uvula, and then to the other, of a curved probe armed each time with a fresh plug of absorbent cotton wool saturated with the solution. Retention of the plug is to enable the fluid to be compressed by the contraction of the soft palate into every part of the throat.

The performance of this duty will no doubt devolve upon nurses, and the fact that such delicate offices fall to them to perform is another proof of the necessity for the thorough and efficient education of nurses before they are entrusted with the responsible care of the sick.

OCEAN BATHING.

Sea water being composed of minerals such as chloride of sodium, magnesium, bromine and iodine, is truly a mineral water, and an ocean bath, therefore, says Dr. Philip Marvel in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, may be properly classified as a mineral bath. When considering the special benefits or the special diseases and conditions to be benefited there are agencies and influences which must be taken into account, such as, for instance, temperature, and those relative to the sea, namely, the forcible activity or movement of the water, the physical conditions of the strand, the distance and convenience of the dressing rooms, &c., and those relating to the individual, namely, the resisting power of the body, the time of the bath, length of time of exposure, the temperament, the physical debility present, *i.e.*, whether the body is relaxed, enervated, nervous, or highly tensioned; and also whether the result to be obtained should be bracing, tonic, stimulating, and invigorating. In other words, the individual bather must be considered a complexity of forces or an aggregation of systems capable of independent as well as allied actions.

If a youth representing vigour and perfect development be immersed in sea water at a temperature of from 65 to 70 deg., there will

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