

will be noted that not only manual dexterity, for which the Japanese are renowned, but also physical strength, is a characteristic of these charming Japanese nurses.

The unique results obtained by the Japanese during the war, to which the work of the nurses certainly contributed largely, are now a matter of history, and 99½ per cent. is said to have been the percentage of recoveries in surgical cases, whether Russian or Japanese, treated by the Japanese surgeons. Dr. Saleeby says, however: "It would be ridiculous to suppose that the results quoted were all obtained in the operating theatre—not by any means. Does the reader know how these amazing people prepared themselves for their naval engagements, how the sailors took an antiseptic bath and donned freshly boiled and washed underclothing, so that when they were wounded their wounds were as a rule aseptic from the first, just for all the world as if they had been made by a clean, if clumsy, modern surgeon? When these cases came up for operation they thus offered a problem entirely different from that which the Russian surgeons had to face. Does the reader know that boracic acid was served round to every gunner, that all gunners eyes were periodically examined, and that no one was allowed to serve a gun whose eyes were not beyond criticism? 'Science,' says Herbert Spencer somewhere, 'is essentially prevision.'"

On the medical side, which was free from anything like serious epidemics, the "great factor in success was due to the application in another direction of the same principles of bacteriology, which served so well on the surgical side. But then, the Japanese commanding officers believed their medical advisers, whereas ours, when advised that a site which drained the products of another camp was not the best choice, usually told their advisers to go to the devil, or thereabouts. There is no

chance for efficiency in this vital matter until the men who have the power have been taught to respect the men who have the knowledge."

The writer concludes by saying that though his knowledge of Japanese methods enabled him to make certain predictions early in the year, he "certainly never guessed that the Japanese sailor was to don sterile underclothing before an engagement."

The Paris Municipal Council, after a long discussion has, says the *Lancet*, adopted the conclusions of M. Navarre regarding the laicisation of the Hôtel Dieu and the Hôpital Saint-Louis, the only two remaining Paris hospitals under the Assistance Publique in which the nursing is still in the hands of nuns. In pursuance of the decision of the Council the Committee of the Council will appeal to the Government to obtain the abrogation of the decree under which the nuns were installed in the hospitals in question. If the abrogation is obtained the Director of the Assistance Publique will arrange that within three months' time the nuns shall be replaced by lay women. In any case, the Municipal Council says that the Augustinian nuns will not be allowed to hold their posts even if they should wear lay habit. But the Director of the Assistance Publique,

probably considering that this last clause should be modified, has made the following declaration:—"It must be understood that Augustinian nuns who give up their vows (*redeviennent laïques*) and who wish to remain in the hospital service may keep their old positions, due regard being had to their fitness for work, their age, and their length of service."

We all feel sympathy for the good Sisters, who in the past, when lay women were totally callous to suffering, cared for sick and distressed beings to the best of their ability. The pity is that *science* demands knowledge and skill



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