

conditions of living less arduous and more luxurious, the duration of life will become more prolonged. And this, it might be expected, would show itself first amongst the women. In the perils and hardships of a pioneer life, women naturally suffer more than men, and as social circumstances improve, in civilized communities, their lot becomes easier and more protected. At any rate, this argument would seem applicable to the present condition of affairs in the United States, seeing that the statistics to which reference has been made, prove that during the last twenty-five years the average life of women policy-holders has increased from forty-two, to no less than fifty-six, years—an increased average life, therefore, of fourteen years, or more than eight per cent. During the same period the life of male policy-holders has only increased in length about five per cent., so that it may be assumed that the argument above-advanced is still further substantiated.

RHEUMATIC FEVER.

THE knowledge of bacterial diseases appears to have been further advanced, if the report which is made in a French contemporary be correct, that a definite bacillus has been isolated in cases of acute rheumatism. At the Pasteur Institute, it appears that in twelve cases of this disease a definite rod-shaped bacillus has been discovered. Injected into animals this caused the typical signs of the joint effusion and inflammation of the serous membranes, so that, considering the careful source from which the account emanates, it would appear that the cause of the disease has at last been discovered. No note is made as to the effects of salicylic acid upon the microbes, and this would be a valuable matter for investigation. But this and other inquiries concerning the agents which destroy the vitality of this new bacillus will doubtless soon be made, and then science will once more be supplied with a valuable guide to the successful treatment of an affection which not only kills large numbers of people each year, but in many other cases produces distressing lesions of the heart and joints from which many months of suffering may ensue; while all the patients are liable to some acute and perhaps fatal recurrence of the original disease.

Nursing Politics.

“WOLF, WOLF!”

FOR the second time, Dr. Bezly Thorne has withdrawn his resignation of membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association. No one who had any personal knowledge of Dr. Thorne imagined for a moment, in spite of his melodramatic threats, that he really intended to sever his connection with this *Royal* Association. Once more he has blustered, threatened—and given in. This is a decided triumph for the Fardonian party, and after his public resignation a fortnight ago, its withdrawal means that Dr. Thorne has taken his lesson to heart. For the future, he must cut his capers to the “Middlesex” tune, or retire altogether from the festive scene. The Reform Party will have none of him.

WITH the written resignation of the late Miss Daisy Robins before them, which, with splendid courage, she read before the Executive Committee, the present officers have no desire to stir the muddy waters of the past. As for Dr. Fenwick's reasons for resignation they were placed on the minutes of the Executive Committee at his own demand, to stand for all time; and how well justified he was in the predictions he made, the conduct of business of the Royal British Nurses' Association during the past four years amply proves. It has been one long record of incompetence, disloyalty to professional interests, and personal intimidation; and so long as this continues, so long will the majority of honourable and self-respecting matrons refuse to take an active part in the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association. They have not yet forgotten the “Barlow Case.”

SILENCE OR SERVICE.

WE were much struck by the bold, and we think right, attitude taken by Mr. Victor Horsley, with regard to personal responsibility of persons holding official positions on committees. He stated in his reply to Mr. Brudenell Carter's attack upon his conduct on the General Medical Council:—

“Finally, I must once more refer, because I have been so constantly misrepresented in the Journals, and in public places, to the sentences with which Mr. Carter concluded, in which he said I made a practice of vituperating those leaders of the profession who were honoured by our Sovereign; he was referring to the criticisms I have published from time to time, and intend to publish again if necessary, on the President of the General Medical Council. The *Lancet*, at the time of the last election, stated in a leading article that I had brought charges against the President which I could not substantiate. In the very next issue I substantiated every one of them, and I shall do so on every public occasion when this matter is brought forward. *It has nothing to do with me personally. He*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)