

the army but the medical profession feels very strongly. I mean the rank and status of the Army Medical Staff. It has sometimes been said, what does rank matter? Is not the title of doctor or surgeon by itself to be regarded as a title which anyone should be proud to wear without further adjuncts?" The speaker then proceeded to demonstrate the advantages to be attained by a definite rank, and announced the decision of the Government to form an Army Medical Corps, adding that the Queen had been pleased to signify her intention of bestowing upon the newly-formed corps the title of "Royal." "I trust," said Lord Lansdowne in conclusion, "that the members of the profession will recognise the sincerity with which we have endeavoured to meet them, and that they, in their turn, will help us to the utmost of their ability to secure the services of their students."

The lessons to be derived from the above facts are manifold. The medical profession has complained for some time past of the want of respect and status accorded to it in the Army Medical Department. It has made itself disagreeable on the subject. It has expressed itself in no uncertain terms, and it has boycotted the army medical service. The result has been—

1.—The Government has been compelled to consider the alleged grievances.

2.—Every effort has been made to remove just causes of complaint.

3.—The status demanded has been granted, and recognised as necessary.

4.—The Queen has bestowed upon the new corps the title of Royal.

5.—The medical profession has been entertained at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor, with all honour.

Those who run may read. The lesson is one which the nursing profession will do well to take to heart.

HEALTH MISSIONERS.

DR. ALLAN, the Strand Medical Officer, is to be congratulated upon his promotion of a scheme for instructing the poor in the elements of healthy living. Much has in the last half century been done in this direction, but the amount of ignorance which still exists, and results in disease and ill-health, is still appalling. Dr. Allan has been paying considerable attention to the question, and advocates the employment of women with nursing experience, who are grounded in the elements of

hygiene, to go from house to house and instruct the poor, more especially the women, in habits of cleanliness, both as regards their houses and persons. The Strand District Board has already issued circulars dealing with the dangers of measles and whooping cough, and proposes shortly to issue other circulars, but Dr. Allan is of opinion that such circulars are chiefly useful to supplement personal instruction, a view which all who have done much work amongst the poor will endorse. The appointment of health missioners will not be altogether experimental as they have already been employed in Manchester and Salford with the best results. These ladies are employed partly by the Corporation, and partly by private societies. They work in districts where the death rate is very high, their duties being to induce habits of cleanliness, to lend a helping hand in sickness, and to report to the Corporation cases of overcrowding and nuisance which they discover in the course of their visits. The medical officer reports of these ladies that they have maintained their reputation by the manner in which they have performed their duties.

We have no doubt that much good can be effected by the employment of such missioners. One of their first duties would be, we think, to teach *industry*, for there can be no doubt that to attain personal and domestic cleanliness in London entails constant work, even in the homes of the better classes.

A PLUCKY PROFESSOR.

IF the riots which have recently taken place in Bombay, and are at present taking place in Milan, are typical of what we are to expect in the future, medical men will do well to add a course of training in the stern arts of warfare to their present curriculum. We read that at Milan the mob did not even respect the hospitals, but wished to invade them, and the Ospedale Maggiore was partially threatened. Behind the gate of that building stood Professor Porro, a Senator, a well-known doctor, and the most noted Conservative in Milan. The crowd were quick to see him. "There is Porro, our oppressor," they cried, threateningly, and insults were shouted at the Professor, who now, pale but calm, resolutely opened the gates and stood with his arms folded, saying, sternly, "Let him who has the courage advance. He will find a good revolver ready for him. I will show how a good physician does his duty." No one accepted the invitation!

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