

NURSES will have to look to their laurels, if they are not to be eclipsed in their knowledge of the scientific preparation of food, so important a matter in the care of the sick, by the ordinary *haus-frau*. In spite of the universal acknowledgment of the purity of the food supply, we wonder how many nurses could pass the most elementary examination in this subject. We are afraid their number will continue to be infinitesimal, until a curriculum of nurse-training is accepted which includes, as a necessary requirement, an adequate knowledge of the preparation and preservation of food.

Dr. Jäger, a Konisberg doctor has certainly taken a step in the right direction, in giving a course of hygiene and bacteriology for ladies, including the preparation and preservation of food by methods used in bacteriological work. The methods employed consist of (1) "The use of vessels with well fitting lids, instead of the inside lids used in kitchens all the world over, which allow stray bits of matter that may adhere to their rim to fall into the food. (2) Avoidance of opening the vessels in which the food was kept, and where this was indispensable careful manipulation as in bacteriological work, and (3) the use of cotton wool lids. Cotton wool lids had been specially prepared to fit the wide tops of the food vessels; they consisted of a circular disc of cotton wool, tightly held between two metal rings, the outer of which formed the overlapping rim of the lid." At the close of the lectures the class invited their friends to an exhibition of kitchen products, raw and cooked, which were all found to be quite fresh and unchanged, both in appearance and taste, although they had been kept in a warm room for periods of from five to sixteen days.

THE fact that, in the Spanish-American war, which may now happily be described as ended, the Red Cross was not respected by the Spaniards, continues to cause much comment. A correspondent writing from the Hospital Ship, *Relief*, states: "We arrived at Siboney this afternoon to find about 2,000 men had been killed and wounded. The medical corps suffered severely. The Spaniards did not respect the Red Cross, having fired repeatedly upon the ambulances and at wounded men on stretchers. This is a severe charge, which I make unreservedly upon the authority of a dozen men, surgeons and officers, who were at the front. Colonel Dickenson was shot twice, once while being carried to the tent, and a second time, and this fatally, just as he was entering the tent. Two surgeons, and a hospital steward were killed in the same way. When Dr. Torney and Lieutenant Gobbs went ashore they wore the Red Cross brassard. The first remark which the wounded men and the

surgeons made to them was to advise its removal, for far from being a protection it but served as a mark for the Spanish. This conduct on the part of the Spanish was in the face of the fact that they had Red Cross flags flying all over Santiago."

THE same correspondent adds "the condition of the wounded on shore here is beyond measure wretched, and excites the lively indignation of everyone. I content myself with mentioning this fact—it is not the fault of the medical corps. The quartermaster and commissary departments are to blame. We were distressed not to be able to take the sick and wounded on board this afternoon, but owing to some official red tape Dr. Torney was not given an anchorage—the shore, of course, had been prepared for the ship. Why this was not done when the wounded so sorely needed the comforts and attention which we can give them is a mystery officialdom will have to explain." We hope so.

THE Surgeon-General of the Army has now promised to accept the services of Red Cross female nurses, as they are needed at the Leiter Hospital, Chickamauga, and at Fortress Munroe, and other government hospitals. He has also advised the officers of the Red Cross relief committee that the surgeons under his command shall be directed to receive delicacies and such other things, not supplied by the government, as may be useful under present conditions. It is a pity that the Medical Department of the Army did not accept the aid of the women nurses and of the Red Cross Society at the commencement of the campaign.

EVIDENTLY trained nursing is somewhat cheap in the estimation of Army Medical Departments, to judge from the lack of provision for nursing the wounded before Santiago, and from the fact that the medical men attached to the Sidar's Army in the Soudan, have neglected to include Nursing Sisters in their arrangements for the care of the sick.

THE seven immune women nurses who recently sailed on the *Resolute* for Santiago, must have their hands full of work. The accounts of the sickness of the American Army continue to be heart-rending, and the commanding officers have signed a round robin to General Shafter stating that the Army was disabled by malaria to such an extent that its efficiency was completely destroyed, and that it must either be brought back to the United States or perish. General Shafter is being severely criticised for failing to report to Washington the terrible condition of things, which it would appear impossible to exaggerate. It is much to be regretted that the services of the trained nurses

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