

Medical Matters.**Talks on Ethics in Nursing.*****EXTRACT OF LIVER.**

THE value of Extract of Liver has recently been very carefully investigated by French physicians, and, it is needless to say, that the pure fresh article was always employed, and not the material which, in an indescribable condition, has, on several occasions lately, been condemned by London magistrates, and thus prevented from being converted into so-called extracts of meat. The extract of fresh liver has been experimentally used because of the well-known effect of this substance in coagulating the blood. It has, therefore, been employed chiefly in cases of consumptives who were suffering from hæmoptysis. In every case it is reported that rapid and excellent results were obtained. The method has also been tried, but with somewhat less success, in cases of epistaxis and metrorrhagia. Fresh pigs' livers were used, and an extract made from these, either in alcohol, water, or glycerine. Theoretically, the best results should be gained in cases of hæmatemesis, because then the extract would come into direct contact with the bleeding surface, and one would imagine that its styptic qualities would be exhibited in the most powerful, because the most direct, manner.

MOSQUITOS AND MALARIA.

Some time ago, we called attention to the theory that malaria was largely propagated by mosquitos. Since then, in various countries, and especially in Italy, most careful investigations have been pursued with regard to this subject; and now a remarkable paper has been published by an Italian physician, which seems to strongly corroborate the theory in question. In brief, this observer collected specimens of mosquitos from a district in Italy where a severe form of malaria is always prevalent, and, with the consent of the patients, experiments were made in one of the Roman hospitals. The results seem to have been remarkable. Those bitten by the insects developed an attack of typical malarial fever, which yielded at once to the administration of quinine. In scientific circles it is now almost accepted that the connection between malaria and mosquitos is very close, and the importance of the fact from a practical point of view, need scarcely be emphasized.

BY MRS. ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB.

If it were possible to bring together, from north, south, east, and west, all the trained nurses of the present time to be reviewed and to have judgment passed upon them, we should have before us a body not of conscripts but of volunteers, each of whom occupies her position in the ranks of her own free will and accord. At first no doubt we should be impressed with the magnitude of their numbers, and with the general good effect of their forces. But when we came to concentrate our attention upon each regiment, as it were, and upon each individual in that regiment, we should be struck with some not altogether pleasant incongruities. We should notice a certain lack of harmony in method of drill, in deportment, in discipline, in uniform and in other minor details. As a body they do not always move in step; they are sometimes out of line, and some are inclined to straggle. We then glance at the officers for an explanation, but we find that they, too, are not always in harmony, though perhaps more so than those in the ranks; still it is very apparent that each woman is a law unto herself in the matter of outer equipments at least, and we may notice in passing that their gaze seems to be largely concentrated upon their own particular regiment without a proper regard as to the manner in which their manœuvres or actions may affect those before, behind, or on either side of them. We turn our attention again to the ranks and scan the faces, but only here and there do we find one upon whom we can pass a really favorable criticism. Such an one always stands at attention, constantly observant that she is in line, not elbowing, keeping her own place indeed, but always with a due regard to those about her. She is alert, active, erect, well disciplined, yet withal of a modest demeanour and bearing. Her face tells her story for her, that she has either brought from the outset into this work a mind and body well taught and self-disciplined, or else that she has been long in the ranks and under fire many times, and has brought out of the struggle an experience that evermore teaches her on the instant the difference between right and wrong—what to do and what not to do. And at the end we naturally turn one to the other and ask: "Why should there be this lack of harmony, this carelessness in regard to the details in our nursing ranks, this evident overlooking of little things, that mean so much in the aggregate, and when we are brought face to face with them? How is it that only here and there we find one approaching, the ideal all-round nurse,

* Read at Trained Nurses' Educational Exhibit, New York City

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