

Number." He says that in the five years 1891-95 cancer was responsible for an annual registered mortality of 712, and in 1896 of 764 to every million of the population of England and Wales. He adds that it is almost certain that these figures understate the actual death-rate from the disease. But the figures as they stand are sufficiently serious, for they show that cancer causes more deaths every year than any other single disease, with the exception of bronchitis, pneumonia, and phthisis. On the basis of the figures for 1896, one out of every fourteen men and one of every nine women reaching the age of thirty-five eventually dies of cancer.

An appeal has been made by the National Hospital for Consumption, near Newcastle, County Wicklow, Ireland, for the sum of £6,000, and the excellent results already achieved certainly warrant the appeal. A response has already been made by Rev. J. Brooke Richardson, executor of the late Miss E. Brooke, and it is to be hoped that other generous donors will speedily place the sum required at the disposal of the Committee of this excellent institution.

A most useful institution is the Lady Strangford Hospital at Port Said, which was established in 1887, principally for the benefit of seamen, but also for passengers in ships passing through the Suez Canal. It would be impossible to find a place more suited for a hospital for the benefit of sailors, or one which would have a more cosmopolitan set of patients. Those who have been ill at sea know the discomforts inseparable from such illness, even under the best conditions, and it is difficult to over-estimate what illness must mean to men having only the accommodation of the ordinary seaman. To such the change to a well appointed hospital, nursed by trained English women, must be a boon indeed. Contributions derived from various sources form a sufficient revenue for the maintenance of the hospital, but the Committee are desirous of paying off a debt of £500 on the original building fund, and also of replacing the temporary wooden structure by a permanent building, at a cost of £5,000. Subscriptions for this purpose may be sent to Lieutenant-General Sir John Stokes, K.C.B., Spring House, Ewell, Surrey; or to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

News comes from Russia that a Russian Sister of the Red Cross Society is to take up her abode shortly at the Court of Cabul at the special request of the Ameer, in order to attend upon the inmates of his harem.

This lady, Mme. Termoshoff, has passed her degree of doctor at the St. Petersburg College of Medicine, and ministered to the sick and wounded in the last Græco-Turkish war, where she distinguished herself in an eminent degree.

As she is well known in influential ministerial circles in the Northern Russian capital, she will undoubtedly exert whatever influence she may gain in the Ameer's entourage for the political advantage of her native country.

She is also a most talented woman, possessing a perfect knowledge of Oriental languages, and she may eventually prove an important factor in Russia's political advancement in Afghanistan.

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### THE MEDICAL ANNUAL.

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#### NEW TREATMENT.

It is quite impossible to touch, even briefly, upon the mass of information given under this heading. We may, however, draw attention to some of the items most interesting to nurses. First must be mentioned the notes given as to antiseptic treatment, a subject in which nurses are closely concerned. It is reported by Lauenstein that Drs. Landerer, and Krämer in spite of careful and detailed attempts at disinfection only found the skin sterile in about 40 per cent. of cases. Further it is demonstrated that micro-organisms are found deep in the glands, and that a disinfectant which can act in the form of gas is needed. Krämer has therefore tested bacteriologically in thirty cases the use of a 1 per cent. solution of formalin. Growth was present in only four cases, and, in three of these, single colonies only were present. In only three cases out of sixty was there any departure from primary healing.

Mr. Bruce Clarke draws attention to two points often overlooked, and which nurses will do well to remember, namely, that roughened hands are far more difficult to make aseptic than smooth ones, and that bacteria are often found in close proximity to a wound which has healed by first intention. This Mr. Bruce Clarke thinks is most frequently the case when the cleansing processes have been sufficient to cause vesication. The lesson to be learnt from this is that it is a mistake to use too strong disinfectants either for the surgeon's hands or for the skin of the region to be operated on.

Another point to which attention is drawn is the unsuitability of the pillows frequently used, for sterilization by heat. Klemm suggests the use of bags made of strong linen, filled with wood wool, which can be effectually sterilized.

Again surgeons have tried operating in india-rubber gloves, a surgeon at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, being the first to experiment in this direction. He uses them in operations which do not require a delicate touch or dexterity. Others have tried thin cotton gloves.

The conviction has lately been gaining ground that the important agents of wound infection are the palpable objects which come into contact with the wound. McBurney has come to the conclusion that to-day there is no difficulty in having absolutely sterile clothing, water, sponges, towels, ligatures, sutures, instruments, and utensils, and that the real source of infection of a wound is to be sought in the skin of the patient or in the hands of those directly concerned in the operation. He therefore determined systematically to use rubber gloves. First he and his first assistant adopted the custom; ultimately he and all his assistants wore rubber gloves at every operation of every kind. The gloves are not expensive, and last with daily operating from four to six weeks. They are boiled in a 1 per cent. soda solution. Mr. McBurney says that with "boiled hands" he can obtain such uniformly perfect wound healing as he did not before believe was possible.

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