

*nashin* ladies to enter hospital for treatment. He thought this might be met by sending nurses and qualified assistants more freely to the patients in their own homes. This so far had not been possible owing to the demands made on the Fund by the plague; the famine had also restricted activity. There was great difficulty in securing women of fair intelligence to undergo the necessary training; and unfortunately the funds were insufficient to cope with the daily growing demand for instituting a comprehensive scheme for providing teaching-nurses and midwives. The Viceroy took a common-sense view when he said that in regard to *purdah nashin* ladies it was impossible to expect any sudden change in the prejudices and customs of centuries, and urged that the line of least resistance should be taken, and these ladies visited in their own homes. It is not many years ago since a great prejudice existed against entering hospitals in this country, and it is almost impossible to understand how revolting it must appear to those who live such secluded lives as high caste ladies in India. Lord Curzon also said that he hoped the Association would become the nucleus of a great training institution of natives, Eurasians, and Europeans, who would carry its benefits to an ever widening circle. All who have the welfare of India at heart must hope that ultimately both doctors and nurses working under the Fund will be drawn from the people of the country. The employment of Europeans is not an ideal condition, but the difficulty with regard to the former plan appears to be that of securing suitable women to undergo the necessary training. It would be most inadvisable to lower the standard, and therefore the efficiency, of those working under the Fund, in order to employ local help.

#### SCIENCE IN EXCELSIS.

It is small wonder that the poor are afraid to enter the public hospitals in Berlin, when such atrocities as those which recently formed the subject of a debate in the Prussian Diet are perpetrated. It is stated that Professor Neisser inoculated eight persons, one of them being a child of fourteen, with syphilis serum in order that he might have the opportunity of observing how far it was possible to secure immunity from syphilitic disease. It is needless to say that the patients, four of whom contracted the disease, were neither informed of, nor consulted as to, the experiment. Great in-

dignation has been felt throughout Prussia at the facts of the case as revealed in the debate in the Diet. The feeling stated to exist upon the subject amongst the scientific advisers of the Government is however most noteworthy. Their advice appears to be that "it would be wrong to make a scapegoat of Dr. Neisser for a misdemeanor in which he has so many members of the medical profession for company." In defence of Professor Neisser, it is urged that the experiment had no bad effects whatever, and that it was performed not for frivolous reasons, but for the humane purpose of combating syphilis. Sterilized blood-serum of syphilitic persons was injected into prostitutes and into two children in order to immunize them from the disease. The fact that several years after some of the prostitutes developed syphilis proved that the attempted immunization was a failure. Professor Virchow, taking part in the debate in the Prussian Parliament on the subject, said that every new method must necessarily be used as a new method at least once on the human subject after it had been tried on animals. Dr. Edward Jenner, Professor Koch, Professor Behring, and other medical scientists, had all made experiments under the same conditions as Professor Neisser. We fail, however, to understand how the incrimination of other medical men exonerates Professor Neisser.

#### UNCLE PUMBLECHOOK.

We are not surprised to learn that the proposal to form a Society of elderly nurses, members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and who desire private nursing work, has not met with a keen reception. Members of the Middlesex medical staff do not apparently know when they are making themselves ridiculous, and no doubt there appears to Dr. F. J. Wethered nothing incongruous in assuming the professional control of women nurses old enough to be his mother, but we congratulate the senior members of the Royal British Nurses Association on not having placed themselves in such a false position. If they are qualified to undertake private nursing work they should be admitted to the private nursing society of the Association, which has illegally assumed the name of "The Society of Chartered Nurses." To join a society labelled second rate, and a refuge for the aged, will scarcely commend itself to the common sense of professional women.

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