

troduced into London. The mechanism of the ear is so delicate that aural specialists are in no way surprised at the impairment of hearing, which is the result of the frequent use of the telephone. This is a new twentieth century danger. Verily, civilization has its drawbacks. What new perils may beset the human race before the dawn of another century!

A THOUSAND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

From a report on a thousand examinations made by Dr. Priestley, medical officer of health at the new Lambeth Borough Bacteriological Laboratory, it appears that the specimens dealt with consisted of sputa from throat membranes and discharges from doubtful diphtheria cases, etc. Two hundred samples of sputa from doubtful tuberculosis cases were examined, and in sixty-eight bacilli were found. The great importance of early diagnosis in cases of consumption, as Dr. Priestley remarks, needs no comment when it is remembered that the earlier the proper treatment the greater the chance of permanent advantage; while the good that must accrue from being able to advise patients and their friends that the disease is not one of tuberculosis is apparent. A hundred and seventy-eight samples of blood from suspected typhoid cases were examined, and in ninety-seven of these the characteristic reaction of Widal was obtained. The reaction consists of the cessation of movement, and the agglutination of typhoid germs when treated with a drop of serum or blood taken from a patient actually suffering at the time, or previously having suffered, from typhoid. Six hundred and twenty samples of throat membranes and secretions from doubtful diphtheria cases were examined, and in a hundred and ninety-one the true (Klebs-Loeffler) diphtheria bacilli were obtained. There are infectious sore throats other than diphtheritic, and by means of bacteriological examinations such throats are at times found to be associated with the pseudo-bacilli of Hoffman. These pseudo-cases can be thus discovered and isolated, and the disease prevented thereby from spreading from person to person. Dr. Priestley's report shows that a large amount of excellent work has been done, and amply justifies the decision of the vestry in December, 1898, to provide a local bacteriological laboratory for the use of medical men practising in Lambeth parish.

New Century's Greetings.

FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

DEAR NURSES.

I have been asked to say a few words to you at this important time of our lives, the end of one, and the beginning of a new, century; and I gladly do so, believing that, as I can look back a great deal further than any of you, I may be able to tell you something of "ancient history" which may interest you.

We are so apt, at the present day, to take things for granted, and believe that they are good now, forgetting wholly, as out of sight, what was the real condition long years ago. Now, I am able to look back to the dawn of improvement, which is still vividly before me, though nearly fifty years have since passed. I was staying with the family of Dr. Arnold at Fox How, during part of the time of the Crimean War, and I shall never forget the feelings of joy and relief which we all experienced at the announcement that Florence Nightingale was prepared to go forth to help in the great emergency, and set matters straight that were so sadly wrong. I must not dwell upon this, but I refer to it as the great epoch and starting-point of all the improvements that have since taken place in the nursing world. The "Gamps" of former days have given way to trained and conscientious women, who are giving themselves to a noble profession in which systematic and scientific work is essential. Then, if you could look in with your mind's eye at the wards of our State Institutions, so-called, but mis-named, "Workhouses," you would see a still more marvellous sight and change. I often wish there had been photography in those days, that I might have preserved a remembrance of the women who posed as "nurses" in these wards. Paupers of the lowest class, in pauper dress, perhaps with black caps, to distinguish them from the rest, drunken women, with hardly an exception, and paid for only in beer and gin for their daily and nightly work, and without any supervision as to the performance of their duties. I could indeed say, did I possess these visible records "Look on that picture, and on this," but I must leave it to your imagination to realise the contrast.

Let me say one word in conclusion, that, at this solemn "parting of the ways," our chief feeling should be that of supreme and unbounded thankfulness that this blessed result was permitted to come forth from the terrible sadness of the war of 1854, and that thus a reform was gained which can never be lost or undone.

So much for the past—but what as regards the future? I look forward to the coming century

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