

## THE CAUSE OF CANCER.

News reaches us from Bombay, says the *Standard*, that the researches which have been for some time in progress in India with the object of discovering the microbe of cancer have been successful, and that the bacillus has been successfully isolated and coloured.

The bacteriological department of the Government of India will, however, make no definite statement on the subject at this stage. More than once during the history of recent bacteriological research it has been believed that the microbe of cancer has been discovered, and the scientists have proved in the end mistaken.

On the present occasion, therefore, it is believed that a wise reticence on the subject of the new discovery would best serve the cause of science, or at any rate that the present report should be received with due reserve until the discovery has been placed beyond the shadow of scientific doubt.

The discovery, however, should it happily be verified, would be a glorious triumph to the scientific investigator, recalling the prophetic words of Professor Tyndall, who, when addressing a Glasgow audience on the microbe theory, said:—"The very first step towards extirpation of these contagia is a knowledge of their nature."

The research work in the United States pathological laboratories is supported by the State of New York, and in Massachusetts Caroline Brewer Croft liberally endowed the Cancer Committee of Harvard University for the same work. Continental societies are also engaged in the research.

It is reported that the well-known pathologist, Professor Löffler, of Greifswald, has discovered a new method of treatment for cancer.

In countries where malaria is prevalent it is stated by Professor Löffler that cancer is unknown.

In Borneo not a single case has been seen by Dr. Pagel, who has practised there for ten years.

Professor Löffler's new method is to inject cancer patients with mosquito virus or with the blood of persons suffering from malaria.

The theory is exciting attention in German scientific circles, and the medical papers are commenting on the treatment.

Professor Löffler asks physicians in charge of cancer wards to experiment in order to test his theory.

## The International Council of Nurses.\*

## NURSING IN AFRICA.

COMPILED BY MARGARET BREAY.

(Formerly Matron of the English Hospital, Zanzibar.)

Africa is known as the "dark Continent," but darkness is giving place to dawn, and dawn with tropical rapidity to broad daylight. A powerful factor in this development is the trained nurse, who, following the flag, has found her way to the heart of the Continent, until in Uganda, on the shores of the Victoria Nyanza, there is now a hospital having a three years' certificated nurse as a Matron, and on the island of Likoma, on Lake Nyasa, there is a well-appointed hospital nursed by certificated British nurses. The same may be said of Zomba, the headquarters of the British administration in British Central Africa.

On the northern seaboard British nurses are doing excellent work in hospitals at Port Said, Alexandria, and Algiers, while further inland at Cairo there is a large hospital, the Kaisr-el-Aini, with an English Matron and nursing staff, in which native nurses are trained. On the west coast many lives have been saved by the good offices of members of our profession in the hospitals at Sierra Leone and Lagos, and trained nurses have also gone inland to nurse members of the West Frontier Force on expeditions into the interior. On the east coast there is at Mombasa a Government Hospital, founded originally by the Imperial British East African Company, which is nursed by Religious Sisters; at Tanga is another under the care of German Deaconesses, while the island of Zanzibar, the metropolis of the East Coast, has English, French, and Native hospitals. The former is interesting, inasmuch as in it some progress has been made in giving systematic instruction to native men and women in nursing. The hospital is maintained by the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, and has a nursing staff of a Matron and five or six British certificated nurses, who take considerable pains to train the natives who work under them. The value of this work is great, as the African thus receives instruction in habits of order, method, and discipline, and in an appreciation of the value of time, which are foreign to him naturally. So far the men have, on the whole, made better nurses than the women, partly because African women marry so early, that few of them stay in the hospital long enough to pass through a full training, partly because in Zanzibar, as in other Oriental countries, the men are in advance of the women in educational development, partly again because the male wards are more used, and consequently afford a better training ground than the female ones, and it would outrage national feelings to place an unmarried woman in charge of male wards. Nevertheless some of the girls have proved themselves apt and trustworthy pupils, and given equal advantages, would no doubt become as proficient as the men. They have many of the characteristics essential in a good nurse, being gentle, kind, and sympathetic, dexterous with their hands, and quiet in

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