

Nursing Profession which will have power to issue a Register on which all nurses who desire to work as such will be required to place their names, a Body which, further, will define the standard of nursing education, and which will when necessary exercise disciplinary powers. The formation of such a Body must be on wide and liberal lines, remembering that there can be no finality about a standard of efficiency for nurses, for the essence of a profession is that it can never be defined once and for all, but that it is ever straining towards increased development as fuller knowledge makes greater demands upon it.

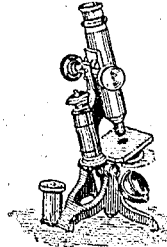
Annotations.

PHTHISIS AT THE FRONT.

Considering the national tendency to phthisis, and the physical strain put upon our soldiers, many of them little more than lads, who are campaigning in South Africa, it is not a matter for surprise that phthisis is prevalent among the troops. What is more to the point is that up to the present, as far as is ascertainable, no provision has been made for these cases on the modern plan of treatment in open air sanatoria. They are sent to the general wards of ordinary hospitals, where certainly they are a source of danger to other patients, and where it is impossible that they should be placed in the conditions best calculated to effect their own recovery. It is therefore highly desirable that open air sanatoria should be opened in South Africa for the treatment of phthical soldiers. The climate of South Africa has long been noted for its favourable influence in cases of consumption it is therefore manifestly much more desirable to treat such cases on the spot, than to ship them to England, to a less favourable climate, and in a crowded troopship, where not only the patients themselves would be placed in prejudicial surroundings, but where also they would be a constant source of infection to their comrades. It is not likely that any of the cases are of long standing, for it must be remembered that, within the last year or two, these men have been medically examined and passed as sound, and fit for active service. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the majority would respond to treatment, and that in three or four months as a maximum limit many would be once again be fit for duty.

Medical Matters.

THE LARVÆ OF THE ANKYLOSTOMA DUODENALE MAY ENTER THE BODY BY THE SKIN.



Two most important communications concerning our knowledge of how parasites may enter the human body have been made recently, says Mr. James Cantlie in the *Medical Times*. The communications both refer to the same parasite, the larvæ of the ankylostomum duodenale.

As its name implies, the parasite has its habitat in the intestine, and it was natural to infer that the parasite gained access to the alimentary canal by way of the mouth. This, in all probability is the usual channel of infection, but experiment has recently shown that the larvæ of the ankylostoma may also penetrate the skin. The subject was first dealt with by Professor Sandwith at the meeting of the British Medical Association, in August, 1901. Specimens prepared by Dr. Looss, of Cairo, were shown at the meeting demonstrating the presence of the ankylostoma larva in the subcutaneous tissues. The paper referring to this discovery of Dr. Looss is given in detail in the "British Medical Journal," September 14th, 1901, and the "Journ. Trop. Medicine," October 1st, 1901. The observations of Looss have been confirmed by Dr. C. A. Bentley, of Assam. Dr. Bentley, whilst working at the etiology of what is known as "ground itch" in "Pani-Ghao," had occasion to test the accuracy of Looss' discovery, and the result is a complete confirmation. Dr. Bentley's investigations are of great interest and significance in regard to parasitology in general. Ground itch, or Pani-ghao, is a skin affection which is especially prevalent amongst coolies in Assam tea plantations. Several attempts have been made to elucidate the cause, one of the most serious attempts was made by Dr. Dalgetty, who, in the "Journal of Tropical Medicine," March 1st, 1901, ascribed the affection to an acarus. Dr. Bentley contends that the presence of the acarus in the blebs and scabs of ground itch is accidental merely, and by a series of experiments was able to show that in all probability the ankylostoma duodenale is the cause of the affection. To understand these experiments it is necessary to know that the majority of coolies in many tea plantations in Assam (and elsewhere) harbour these parasites in great numbers; that the

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