

sional freedom. We felt that so grave a wrong should be made public without delay, and did not hesitate to expose this dishonourable policy in this journal. The result was "Stellenbosch," but we have never regretted our action in this matter, and the practical result of the Stellenbosch policy was to free our hands to deal with the question without reserve.

In like manner there is nothing more unworthy in the whole history of the Royal British Nurses' Association than the way in which the Matrons who initiated the scheme of an Army Nursing Reserve were "Stellenbosched" on the instigation of Dr. Bezly Thorne, and the organisation of this important National Service taken out of their hands and assumed by persons unqualified for the task, with the result which has been seen in the present war. We are not complaining of the work of individual nurses, much of which has been most admirable, but we do blame most unhesitatingly the inefficient system which has deprived our soldiers of a modern system of nursing, and we have no hesitation in saying that had the organisation of the Army Nursing Reserve been placed in competent professional hands, an adequate system would have been in force before the present war, and that the responsibility for the needless loss of life which occurred through deficient nursing must be accepted by Dr. Bezly Thorne and his Committee.

The object lesson of the war has been to bring home to the authorities the necessity for the re-organisation of the Army Nursing Department on lines for which we have long pleaded, further to force upon them the conviction that they cannot afford to play with a matter of such paramount importance as Army Nursing Organization, and that the services of experienced nurses must be secured in its direction and control. The lesson has been a sharp one. Let us hope that not only the War Office, but the nation, will take it to heart, and insist that the best professional skill which the nursing world can produce shall be utilized for the benefit of those men who willingly risk their lives in the defence of the Empire. This is a question in which women are vitally interested. As mothers they send forth their sons to fight the battles of their country ungrudgingly. They have a right to expect that those who fall in its service shall be efficiently cared for.

## Annotations.

### CANCER RESEARCH.

#### STATE AID ASKED FOR TO DEAL WITH THE DISEASE.

As is well known, a fund of £100,000 is to be raised to promote investigations on the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer. Steps are to be taken:—

1. To provide, extend, equip, and maintain laboratories.
2. To encourage researches on the subject of cancer within the United Kingdom or in the British Dominions beyond the seas.
3. To assist in the development of cancer research departments in various hospitals and institutions approved by the executive committee.
4. And generally to provide means for systematic investigation in various other directions into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer.

The fund will be administered by a president, vice-presidents, five trustees, honorary treasurer, general committee, and executive committee. Of the first trustees, three may be nominated by the donors of sums of £1,000 and upwards, and one each by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons.

The office of the general committee will be at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment.

### AN IMPORTANT POINT.

A point of considerable importance was recently raised at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Lincoln County Hospital. Dr. Stitt Thomson, the visiting physician who has charge of the gynæcological cases, gave notice a short time ago of his intention to perform a major operation. To this the surgical staff took exception as being contrary to precedent. The weekly board supported Dr. Thomson, but the matter was referred by the opposite party to the Quarterly Board, at which, after a lengthy and brisk discussion, in the course of which all the interests concerned were represented, the action of the weekly board was confirmed by sixteen votes to fourteen. In connection with this controversy the following remarks made by Mr. James Berry in a lecture delivered last year at the Royal Free Hospital are pertinent:—

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)