

Annotations.

A NURSING CENTRE IN THE WEST END.

After January 1st a convenient Nursing Centre will be found at 431, Oxford Street, where the following nursing societies will have their official offices and addresses:—The Registered Nurses' Society, the International Council of Nurses (English Branch), and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. A fine room, suitable for meetings, &c., will be obtainable by arrangement at this central address, which is on the direct 'bus routes from all over the metropolis, and three minutes' walk from Bond Street (Tube) Station.

WE CONGRATULATE BART'S.

Heartly congratulations to the Treasurer and Almoners and medical staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on their unanimous decision to recommend to the Governors of the Hospital that further land should be acquired, and thus space provided on which to build a modern hospital, with its necessary administrative blocks, on the most perfect plan possible.

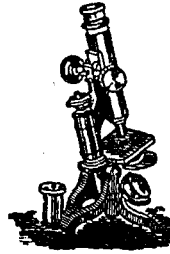
This plan will be the best and cheapest in the end, and should, for this reason, receive wide financial support from all who realise and value at its true worth the splendid work for humanity and science which, for seven centuries, has been accomplished on this historic site.

THE MODERN PLUMBER.

A remarkable change has come over the plumbing industry during the last twenty or thirty years. It is not so long ago that the name of "plumber" had become a by-word for every kind of ignorance, incompetence, and dishonesty. Recent reports of the London Technical Education Board and of the Lancashire County Council, however, bear witness to the effect that the plumber has not only to a large degree ceased to merit reproaches but that at the present time the plumbing industry contains a large percentage of highly-trained men. The testimony of the medical profession and of persons engaged in public health administration is practically unanimous as to the value of their work; and there is little doubt that the notable decrease of typhoid fever in recent years and the virtual disappearance of typhus and cholera are largely owing to the enormous improvement in plumbing workmanship that has followed the development of the registration system established by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 1886.

Medical Matters.

THE ORIGIN OF CANCER.



Mr. Henry Morris, F.R.C.S., senior Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, selected for the subject of the "Bradshaw Lecture," which he recently delivered, the "Origin of Cancer." The alleged causes may, he said, be grouped into two classes, the intrinsic, and the extrinsic. The two most important hypotheses of the intrinsic group are those associated with the names of Thiersch and Cohnheim. Thiersch's hypothesis, called the "lost balance," attributes the origin of cancer to a loss of normal balance between the epithelial and the connective tissue of the body, brought about by age and other causes. Cohnheim's hypothesis attributes the development of malignant tumours to "matrices," or germs of embryonic cells which have become isolated and shut off from their normal surroundings by an irregularity in the process of development and growth. This hypothesis is, however, insufficient to account for the formation of cancer in scar tissue, in the tissue produced in the union of fractured bones, and in several other conditions. To supplement this deficiency the "tumour germ" hypothesis of Cohnheim has been so extended as to embrace "matrices" of embryonic cells formed as results of injuries, or of chronic irritation and inflammation, so that, as now understood, this hypothesis attributes the formation of all tumours, malignant as well as benign, to the existence of a "matrix" or "tumour germ" of embryonic cells, which may be either of congenital or of post-natal origin.

It is good news that there are reasonable grounds for expecting that the organised researches now being conducted under the direction of the Royal Colleges and elsewhere will, if funds permit of their being continued to the end, yield valuable information as to how to prevent cancer, by teaching us what are the real agencies which stimulate the tumour germs into activity.

DANGERS OF RADIUM.

Dr. Dawson Turner, in a lecture before the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, published in the *British Medical Journal*, emphasised the danger attending the use of radium in inexperienced hands.

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