

worm. These parasites are deposited on the worm chiefly by a fly of the family Tachinidæ, and, gradually finding their way into the body of the worm, eat their host. In spite of this tax the cotton worm sometimes contrives to reach the pupa stage, but it seldom goes farther, and there is little doubt that if there were a large enough number of Tachinids the future of the cotton worm would be extremely black. The Department of Agriculture is therefore proposing, after some further examination, to cultivate and spread the parasite.

Disinfection of the Hands in Obstetrical Practice.

Dr. Schumacher (*Arch. f. Gynak.*, Berlin) contributes a bacteriological and clinical study on this subject. The hands of 193 persons were subjected to the following treatment:—The hands were disinfected by washing for three minutes with warm water, soap, and nail-brush; they were then dried with a sterile towel. The nails were then cleaned. The hands were again washed, as above, for five minutes. The hands and nails were now rubbed with gauze, saturated with 60 per cent. alcohol for two minutes. Finally, the hands were rinsed in 1 per cent. lysol solution for three minutes. After this cultures were taken without rinsing off the lysol, as, though the latter substance might be carried into the culture and possibly inhibit the growth of any bacteria present, this is the condition in which the hand is introduced into the vagina in obstetrical practice. Of the 193 persons treated as above, the hands of only four were found to be sterile; but, in spite of this, the germ-infected hands failed to produce any unfavourable result in the puerperium. Since this was the result, Dr. Schumacher would restrict the use of rubber gloves in obstetrical practice to hands which have been soiled by contact with septic material.

Demonstration u. Leipzig

Dr. Nobel (*Arch. f. Hyg., München*) is dissatisfied with the usual method of demonstrating the *Bacillus* in the tubercle bacillus in sputum. Owing to its irregular distribution in the sputum, direct examination of

selected parts thereof may fail time after time to show the presence of the bacillus. His method avoids this difficulty, and substitutes one certain examination for many doubtful ones. His process is as follows:—1. Eight to ten times its amount of clear lime-water is added to the sputum in a wide-mouthed indiarubber-stoppered bottle, and the mixture vigorously shaken for a short time. 2. After the sputum has become thoroughly homogeneous, it is centrifuged for two minutes. If sufficient lime-water has been added, a well-defined, compact deposit is obtained. 3. The supernatant fluid is placed into a Berkefeld filter chamber of 1 c.c. capacity, which in turn is placed into a vessel containing dry, loose gypsum or plaster of Paris. 4. The fluid will be drawn out by the plaster of Paris in about two to three hours as a rule, but the time will vary according to the thinness of the sputum. 5. A little of the deposit, after filtration, is put with a little water upon a cover-glass and stained in the usual way.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Miss Louisa Twining, who for the past fifty years has always been foremost in advocating measures for the advancement of Poor Law nursing, in a letter addressed to the *Times* last week, once again advocates, "now that nursing forms so large a part of the Poor Law institutions," the appointment of a special committee or sub-department of the Local Government Board to deal with nursing matters, "on which, of course, some women should serve, as in the Army Nursing Service." This committee, says Miss Twining, might invite probationers for Poor Law work; and she adds: "I feel convinced that the prestige of a State Department would attract many who now regard 'workhouse nursing' as an unworthy and inferior occupation." Sooner or later the formation of such a Department is inevitable. The sooner the better.

It is interesting to learn that in connection with the Red Cross Society of Japan there is a committee of ladies, whose patroness is the Empress. All the great ladies of Japan, according to the *Daily Mirror*, belong to either the central or the local committees, the princesses, the wives of the Ministers of State and of the high notabilities; it is, in fact, a social distinction to belong to the Ladies' Committee of the Red Cross. The Red Cross Society receives its orders from the Ministers of War and the heads of the naval and military departments, and the Society meets once a year in Tokio to consult with the Government, to receive instructions, and exchange opinions. In time of war the women of Japan remain at the base hospitals, leaving the nursing on the field to be undertaken by men nurses. Viscountess Hayashi, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to the Court of King Edward, was, with the Empress of Japan, foremost in her efforts on the Ladies' Committee during the war with China. She tended the wounded herself, and made many bandages—bandage-making being an important part of the Committee's work. The Empress, besides undertaking bandage-making and other needlework for the troops, made glad the hearts of the soldiers by putting some of her work into their regimental colours.

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