

veyed by the sting of a mosquito. Hankin asserts that ants spread plague; and purulent abscesses, due to the sting of gnats, are not uncommon in hot climates.

Concerning the mechanism by which the infection is conveyed, the present opinion appears to be that the noxious organisms are not carried directly by the actual sting of the insect, but by secondary causes, such as the accidental disposition of bacteria, with which the insect is saturated—if one may use that term—in the wound at the time the skin is punctured by the sting, or by the bacteria being conveyed on the body of the fly to some broken surface of cuticle, or by the deposit of the insect's excrement.

The belief that insects are potent sources of danger in disseminating disease is of overwhelming importance to humanity. Although the necessity of crediting certain forms of invertebrated life with dangerous characteristics is not fully realised outside the scientific world, nevertheless the day has arrived when the laity should be asked to make every effort to banish flies and mosquitoes, not only from dwellings, but also from their immediate surroundings.

LAWRENCE IRWELL,
Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.

A Useful Conference.

A first conference with representatives of the district nursing associations affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held last week at 120, Victoria Street. Lady Mary Howard presided. Eighteen nursing associations sent representatives, and interesting discussions took place on the question of school nursing in the elementary schools, the Council having recently circulated a memorandum advocating the employment of Queen's Nurses under the education authorities to attend to the children suffering from minor ailments; and on the better co-operation between hospitals and district nursing associations in the matter of out-patients, and a resolution was passed that further inquiry should be made into the methods existing at present with a view to bringing the two branches of nursing into more practical and systematic relations.

It was particularly in relation to this subject that the Council of the Institute had submitted to the Committee of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund an application to participate in the annual grants made by that body, as the work of the Queen's Nurses did so much at present to relieve the pressure on the out-patients' departments of the London Hospitals. It was decided that in future this conference should meet twice a year.

The German Nursing Entente.

Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, sends us a long and interesting letter from Berlin, in which, in accepting our invitation to become a collaborator of this journal; she says, "It is a very great honour for me that you should want me on the staff of your inspiring journal; you don't know how much I enjoy reading it every Sunday; how much I learn from it for my work, and how deeply interested I am in the history of nursing which it unfolds. I am really ashamed that I did not at once telegraph my congratulations when the Report of the Select Committee was issued. But I rejoiced greatly. Our very own journal begins on January 1st—here in Germany we have to learn to manage a paper, so you must not expect too much in the first years. Our Association now numbers 750 nurses, and we can hardly keep up with the work, as we must do all from the beginning."

Writing of Sister Agnes Karll in this month's *American Journal of Nursing*, Miss Dock says "She is a woman of rare capacity and character, whose practical ability, intellectual force, and broad, liberal, clear-sighted judgment would make her a power in any circle, so that it may well be a matter of deep satisfaction to nurses, and especially to the nurses of Germany, to know that she belongs to them, and that her whole soul is thrown unreservedly into the active struggle of upbuilding and self-development which is taking place in the nursing profession in many countries, and with special earnestness in Germany."

We still have grateful memories of the kind hospitality of Sister Agnes in Berlin last year during the Congress, and our readers will follow her great work of organising the "free" Sisters in Germany with warm sympathy. She is already one of us as an honorary member of the Matrons' Council, and British and American nurses are in touch with her, as both the Hon. President and Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses have been elected honorary members of the German Nurses' Association. May these happy relations extend.

From Germany where education is so thorough comes the news that every medical student must now do one year's practical hospital work before taking up the more scientific part of medicine. In Cologne, Frankfort, Hamburg and Dusseldorf the big hospitals have now their departments of practical medicine, and at those where in the future nurses are to be trained—both medical and nursing students will have the same teachers.

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