

treatment of disease is now well established, and in no illnesses is this fact more fully recognised than in tuberculous cases, whether the tubercle attacks the lungs or other parts of the body. We are indebted to Mr. A. Nash, the Secretary of the Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary at Margate, for the accompanying illustration, showing how the patients in that institution can remain day and night at all seasons of the year on spacious covered verandahs. The invigorating air of Margate is especially beneficial to tuberculous children, and no less than eighty-five beds are set apart for them in this admirable institution.

The Maidstone Guardians have decided to communicate with the Home Office respecting the case of a man who was admitted to the union infirmary from the county gaol, at the expiration of his sentence, in a verminous condition. The man, who was suffering from paralysis, died two days later. The prison doctor stated to the Board that he thought the man in a fit state to remove to the infirmary, where he would have the advantage of skilled nursing. While in the prison hospital he had a night and day attendant and two prisoners to look after him. Maidstone being only a third-rate prison it did not possess any proper hospital staff. Most people will agree with the guardian who said that if people were sent to prison in a bad state of health there ought to be a proper hospital staff to look after them.

At the Lady Margaret Fruitarian Hospital at Bromley, Kent, which held its annual meeting last Saturday, though the Medical Staff has full authority to prescribe a flesh diet if necessary, they have not done so on a single occasion. They consider that a carefully selected fruitarian diet is most beneficial for both medical and surgical cases, ensuring rapidity of recovery and enabling the patients to regain lost strength. It is stated that the hospital has no domestic staff. The domestic work is, however, done by the nurses, who are trained in domestic work and fruitarian cooking as well as nursing. As presumably the nurses are bound to the hospital for a certain period, this must be a very easy and economical method of solving the domestic problem from the point of view of the institution. Whether it is as beneficial to the nurses is another question.

Sister Stegemann, the member of the German Nurses' Association who is visiting some of the hospitals of the principal towns on her way home from China, recently paid a visit to St. George's Hospital, Bombay, where she was most cordially received by the Lady Superin-

tendent, Miss Mill, and afforded an opportunity of seeing everything of interest in the hospital. Miss Mill is an Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, through which Miss Stegemann became known to her.

We learn that the first central examination under the authority of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association will take place simultaneously in New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland in June next. This is very satisfactory evidence of the good work done by the Association, in organising and consolidating the nursing profession in Australia.

One of the benefits of Registration to trained nurses was made evident in Auckland, New Zealand, recently when a woman, charged with theft, appeared in a police court in nursing uniform, and was convicted. Next day a statement appeared in the papers from Mrs. Grace Neill, who is the Assistant Registrar of Nurses in New Zealand, showing that the woman was not a Registered Nurse. In this country trained nurses have no means of dissociating themselves from women who don their uniform and bring it into disrepute.

Nursing, says Dr. J. Hammett in an American contemporary, constitutes the ethical factor in the vocation of the physician. It is that part of the applied art of medicine which gives it the character of devotion to suffering humanity, and which invests the physician with the reputation of sympathy and love for his fellow men and women. Nursing is that branch of applied therapeutics in which our sisters, wives and mothers can join hands with the physician. It is individual and personal, it is the tie which binds the personality and individuality of the physician with that of the patient. Attention to the comfort of the patient and efforts at the widest application of the art of nursing afford also a common ground for two other much-to-be-desired objects of our art: first, to secure for it the greatest possible support from philanthropic individuals and from the State and nation, and, secondly, to unite the more and more digressive specialties in medicine on the common ground of relief to human suffering. Here we have a tendency in which our claims for philanthropic and State support find a real and enduring sentiment and justification. For we cannot claim this support for medicine as a science alone, but we can claim it for medicine as an art. For it is not exclusively the sciences which secure the blessings to the vocation of the physician, but it is the devotion to the relief of suffering, the readiness to help, the sympathy and the kindness of heart.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)