

edited by a trained nurse, though the number of excellent journals published occasionally in connection with Nurses' Leagues is increasing, and the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, which has a professional editor, is also most admirably produced and edited. A most important event this year in the history of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the formation of a company of trained nurses—the Nursing Press, Limited—with the object of securing the Journal as their own property. Experience has abundantly proved the need of a professional organ owned, controlled, and edited by nurses, as apart from journals controlled and financed by lay commercial speculators, and the importance of this step to British nurses, both now and in the future, can scarcely be over-rated.

IN CONCLUSION.

We have briefly referred to some of the most important events during the past year. Space does not permit us to do more, but it will be gathered that in all directions there is activity in nursing circles, and much earnest work is being accomplished.

Medical Matters.

A SPECIFIC AGAINST SLEEPING SICKNESS.



Slowly the heart of the Dark Continent is yielding up its secrets to science. Years ago the heavy toll of valuable lives it exacted at the hands of Europeans was supposed to be due to the "climate." Science, with greater exactness, has now proved to us that malaria is due to a direct infection with which the victim is inoculated during the bite of the *Anopheles* mosquito. Now Dr. Koch, who has been investigating the cause of the sleeping sickness, which of recent years has been devastating whole villages, and causing the death of thousands of natives in Central Africa as well as of some Europeans has reported to the German Minister of the Interior that it is manifest this disease is due to another fly of the species *glossina palli-cupes*. When the *glossina* stings a human being it leaves behind it *trypanosoma* by which sleeping sickness is produced. Professor Koch has now discovered that by treating patients who have contracted sleeping sickness with injections of atoxyl, a preparation of arsenic, the *trypanosoma* disappear within ten days. He reports:—

"It has been definitely ascertained that in atoxyl we possess a specific against sleeping sickness. In the three weeks that have elapsed

since sending away my last report the improvement in serious cases, where without the application of atoxyl the patients would undoubtedly have succumbed, is so marked that no doubt remains of the efficacy of the specific." Truly peace has its victories as well as war.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Cerebro-spinal fever, otherwise known as "spotted fever," has been very prevalent in Germany of late. The symptoms are convulsions, severe headache, and constant vomiting. Death may occur in a few hours, and if the patient recovers he is frequently a sufferer from paralysis. It is therefore of interest to learn that the discovery of a serum cure for this dreaded disease is now announced, and has been communicated by Professor Koller to the Medical Society of Berne, of the university of which the Professor is a member. He has made the discovery in collaboration with Professor Wasserman, of Berlin, and demonstrated to his audience the effect of the serum in the case of patients who have completely recovered. He states that diminution of the fever follows the administration of the serum almost instantly, and recovery within a fortnight is the rule.

Progress of State Registration.

The most interesting letter from a correspondent in Holland which we publish on page 520 shows that the struggle of nurses in that country, as elsewhere, for better education, better conditions of work, and for the establishment of educational standards and central professional control, is in reality a struggle between employers and employed. On the one side there is the demand of the trained workers for reasonable professional liberty, for power enabling them to effect necessary reforms in their profession, for freedom to discuss their own affairs in the press and otherwise. On the other hand there is the objection of the employers of cheap labour to realise the necessity for improving the conditions, and shortening the hours of work of their employees, of raising the educational standard, and of allowing them a voice in the press. Papers controlled by the employers are safe from their standpoint, and therefore allowable. Any objectionable opinion can be suppressed. But an Association formed avowedly in the interests of the workers is dangerous, and therefore raises "fierce opposition" on the part of hospital managers and officials.

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