

had been ill four days, and her condition and the smells were indescribable. Craniotomy was performed. The patient did wonderfully well till last evening, when the friends sat her up to take food. Within an hour she was dead—embolism we believe. These, then, are some of our variations in that line. Others include emergency operations of all kinds. We have many calls to village cases, acting as "maistry" over buildings at the women's leper home, and so forth. Truly, one needs to be a veritable "Jack o' all trades" in a Mission Hospital, but the life is full of deep interest. Another time, if you care to hear more, I might tell you of our leper homes. Many thanks for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I rejoice to note you are still working energetically for State Registration.

Yours truly, SISTER MARGARET.

Professional Review.

LESSONS IN DISINFECTION AND STERILISATION.

A second edition of Dr. F. W. Andrewes' *Lessons in Disinfection and Sterilisation* has been published by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, London, price 3s. 6d. The book owes its origin to a practical class which the author conducted for some of the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and in his preface, an expansion of the lectures and practical work of which that class consisted, because there seems to be no elementary book which deals with the bacteriological aspects of disinfection in a systematic manner. Sterilisation and disinfection play so important a part in modern medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and public health that their principles require to be understood by those who would practise them intelligently. The majority of those who are called upon to practise them have neither time nor opportunity for a complete course of bacteriological study, but it is not a difficult thing for any teacher to devise a short practical course of laboratory instruction, which shall effectively teach the essential principles of disinfection.

The author goes on to explain that the book is written for those who know no bacteriology, but who need sufficient acquaintance with its principles and methods to be able to understand what they are doing when they attempt to carry out processes of disinfection.

"The only method by which we can hope to get the mastery over bacteria is by learning all about them, studying their habits and distribution, and testing in the laboratory how they can most conveniently be destroyed. These are the steps by which our present knowledge has been gained, and those who would learn to practice disinfection intelligently must follow in the same path, lest their practice degenerate into a meaningless routine." He, therefore, sets forth simply what bacteria are, how they grow and multiply, where they chiefly abound, why some are good and some are bad, and how they can be cultivated and studied, in order that the remainder of the book may be intelligible.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

Naturally, after the passing of The Qualification of Women Act, 1907, the Women's Local Government Society held its annual meeting in the Morley Hall in congratulatory mood. Lady Frances Balfour presided. The committee pointed out that, while there were now 1,141 women serving on District Councils and Boards of Guardians, there were still 237 unions where there were no women guardians, and urged that strenuous local work should be done to secure the return of competent women to every board. Twenty-two of the Metropolitan boroughs had appointed 39 women as Sanitary Inspectors, but no women had yet been appointed in the boroughs of Bermondsey, Deptford, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Shoreditch, Stepney, and Stoke Newington. Lady Frances Balfour spoke of the progress of the Society, and said there was great need for a woman Commissioner for Lunacy, so that female lunatics should have the sympathy and advice of one of their own sex. Dr. Slater proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Government for having brought in the Bill, which removes from women the disability to be elected members of Town or County Councils, which was carried.

Mrs. Despard delivered a brilliant address on the Economic Aspects of Woman Suffrage at the National Liberal Club Political and Economical Circle, on Monday last week. She observed that fundamentally all social and political questions were economic. Close study of history showed that it was economic pressure which forced any particular problem to the front. They were frequently told that the home was the true sphere of woman. Once there was some truth in that assertion; now it was an anachronism. The advent of modern industrialism had killed the old home industries and had driven women into the open labour market to gain a livelihood. Efforts made by women to form trade unions had been practically powerless because, until a class of workers could bring pressure to bear upon the authorities to regulate their lives, nothing of any importance would be done to improve their position. She believed that woman citizens bringing into politics the best elements of family life, where men and women ruled jointly, would constitute a great and beneficial power in the State; that the rise in the *status* of woman which would follow the recognition of her citizen rights would materially improve her position in the family, the workshop, and the State; that the moral standard both of man and woman would rise, as equality displaced domination on the one hand and subserviency on the other, and that as a result party politics would give place to true statesmanship and the devising and carrying through of measures tending to increase the health, sanity, and wealth or well-being of the whole community.

The Home Secretary has appointed Dr. Mary

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