

tion of syphilis and other venereal diseases the Bahima are."

Another cause discovered by Colonel Lambton was the terrible practice of deliberate vaccination of healthy infants with the syphilitic virus from affected persons, the reason given for the practice being that syphilis communicated in this way during infant life conferred immunity from it to the adult.

Père Laane said in his evidence: "The people have told me over and over again about this. The practice is to wrap the infant when only a few days old in clothes which have been smeared with syphilitic discharges. Of the existence of this practice I have no doubt whatever, and have had to make it the subject of my sermon on more than one occasion."

#### PROPOSED METHODS OF CHECKING THE DISEASE.

In regard to measures employed for checking the disease, the method which proved most feasible, as suggested by Col. Lambkin, was through enlisting the co-operation of the powerful chiefs. The influence exercised by a chief over the people in his district is very great. He can do almost what he likes with them.

Colonel Lambkin therefore suggested the establishment of small centres, called "Treatment Rooms," throughout Uganda, where syphilitic patients would attend weekly for treatment and observation. In each "Room" a register would be kept in which the names of all syphilitic patients would be entered and forwarded to the respective chiefs, who would enter them in duplicate registers. Cards would be given to each patient on which the more important facts about syphilis would be printed, its dangers to the patient and others, and the precautions which should be observed. Should a patient fail to attend on more than one or two occasions without sufficient cause the fact is to be notified to his respective chief.

Colonel Lambkin further states:—

"On January 6th, 1908, I gave an address before the young King of Uganda and his respective Parliament, the object being to explain to them the nature of the disease we had to deal with, the ravages it had committed and was still doing, and to lay before them the scheme which I proposed to adopt to check its further progress.

"The address was listened to with the greatest interest and attention, but nothing surprised me more than the speeches which were delivered by some of the chiefs, showing the most complete and intelligent grasp of the subject under discussion, as well as a thorough knowledge of the ravages which syphilis had already perpetrated among the tribes, which, if left unchecked, would ultimately end in practically complete racial extermination. Listening to these speeches, one could hardly believe that one was hearing them from the lips of negroes in the centre of Africa. In the end I found that I had the entire and intelligent sympathy of the assembly of chiefs, as they were prepared at once to do their share in carrying out the proposals of my scheme. I may add that the whole population showed interest in the subject. Previously losses from syphilis had come to be regarded as "Kismet." These new proposals gave

them fresh hope, at which these poor people eagerly grasped. The meeting under the King of Uganda in Lukiko will, I feel sure, turn out to be as important an event as it will certainly be memorable to me."

Colonel Lambkin is very hopeful as to the chances of being able to deal successfully with syphilis in Uganda. He points out that "the influence of the chief over the people is remarkable, his word is law; hence with his sympathies enlisted on our side complete and regular attendance can be relied upon, so that there is every reason to think, without being too optimistic, that our chances of being able to deal successfully with syphilis in Uganda are as good as they were ten years ago in India. If we can bring about anything like the brilliant results achieved in that country we shall have cause for congratulation."

#### SYPHILIS IN OBSTETRICS.

The above subject, ably dealt with by Dr. W. J. Gow, is of great interest to obstetric nurses, and midwives, but lack of space prevents more than a brief allusion to it.

"A System of Syphilis" is a book which should certainly be accessible to nurses through their professional libraries, and those who have read the first two volumes will await with interest the four further ones which are to follow. The subject is a difficult one to deal with, but everyone must agree that it could not have been in better hands, and that the book is a valuable addition to medical literature. M. B.

#### A MANUAL OF NURSING.

Only eighteen months ago we referred to the thirtieth edition of Dr. Lawrence Humphry's extremely popular Manual of Nursing. Since then the thirty-first edition has been rapidly exhausted, and the thirty-second is now before us. Criticism seems superfluous, as it is evident that Dr. Humphry has exactly gauged the need of nurses, and that the publishers have done their part excellently to merit such success. The book is a recognised necessity for nurses, and the quick succession of editions indicates their appreciation and gratitude. The enterprise of Messrs. C. Griffin and Co. in issuing the book at so small a price as 3s. 6d. has been properly rewarded, and we wish the new edition continued success.

#### A NEW GERMICIDE AND ANTISEPTIC.

There has recently been submitted to our notice a new disinfectant under the name of "Kalzen," which possesses properties which should make it of great utility to trained nurses. The new disinfectant, which has been produced as a result of long-continued scientific research, has a Rideal-Walker co-efficient on B. Typhosus of 17; but Messrs. A. Rowan, the manufacturers, wish it to be understood that they are desirous that, like other disinfectant fluids, "Kalzen" should be submitted to any other recognised and reliable methods of standardisation, for they by no means pin their faith to the Rideal-Walker method as the only reliable test. "Kalzen" is also produced in the form of a soluble and an insoluble powder, and as a soap, and it appears to us to deserve a careful trial at the hands of our readers.

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