

lectureships in such subjects as Chemistry, Hygiene, Physiology, and Economics.

Knowledge is the golden key with which men open the avenues to success, and by the endowment of universities and educational courses the opportunities of acquiring it have been liberally opened to them. The same key in the hands of women will be no less potent for good.

Now that the necessity of the endowments of Colleges for Women for the teaching of domestic science has been realised, we hope that someone will discover the need for endowing a College of Nursing.

Medical Matters.

DIMINUTION OF ENTERIC FEVER IN INDIA.

The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India for 1909, published by the *Lancet*, gives some interesting details as to the measures directed against enteric fever, concerning which we read:—The diminution in enteric prevalence has been manifest all over India; in 1908 there were 11 stations in which admission-rates of over 30 per 1,000 from this cause were recorded; in 1909 not a single station (except the enteric convalescent depôt at Naini Tal) had such a high rate as this, Benares showing the highest prevalence of 28.3 per 1,000. Meerut and Lucknow each had 56 cases; Rawal Pindi had only 21 cases, compared with 93 in 1908; and Secunderabad 20 compared with 80. The Sanitary Commissioner relates briefly the history of the measures that have been undertaken within the last few years to bring about this amelioration. As far back as 1905 arrangements had been made for a medical officer to visit the scene of Koch's successful antityphoid campaign in South-West Germany; in that year Captain E. D. W. Greig, I.M.S., was deputed for this purpose and studied Koch's methods on the spot. In 1906 the subject was taken up at the Central Research Institute at Kasauli, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel (now Sir D.) Semple; and in the same year a standing committee on enteric fever was appointed, presided over by the principal Medical Officer H.M.'s Forces in India. Four principal administrative measures were recommended:—(1) Enteric convalescents to be isolated away from other troops at some suitable hill station, and their excreta to be systematically examined to determine when they become free from infectivity; (2) all troops engaged in the handling of food, as cooks, mess

servants, men employed in regimental dairies and soda-water factories, to be medically examined as to their freedom from typhoid infection — no enteric convalescent to be employed in any such duty; (3) orderlies nursing enteric patients to be inoculated, and not to attend on other patients; and (4) as the employment of soldiers of combatant units for the nursing of typhoid patients is dangerous to their comrades, with whom they mix freely in the intervals between their nursing duties, and as some of these nursing orderlies had been found to be typhoid carriers, it was considered that a special corps of male nurses should be constituted as soon as possible. Upon these lines a very effective anti-typhoid campaign has been carried out. A convalescent depôt for typhoid patients was opened at Naini Tal in April, 1908, from which date until the end of 1909 (the year under review) 655 men were received and treated; 550 underwent bacteriological examinations necessary for the detection of carriers; of these, six were discovered in 1908 and seven in 1909. A second convalescent depôt was opened at Wellington for the Southern Command in June, 1909; here 123 men were dealt with, of whom 64 underwent complete bacteriological examination; one man was found to be an intermittent chronic carrier. At these depôts all convalescents are kept for more than four months; even if no bacillus carrier was detected the removal of the enteric convalescents from their stations, and their segregation where they cannot be a danger to others, would fully justify the establishment of the depôts. Moreover, it is the best treatment for the men themselves, and materially diminishes the cost of invaliding to England. The second and third recommendations, as to thorough examination of all men who are concerned in the handling of food for troops and the employment of special orderlies for enteric patients, are being fully carried out. The recommendation as to formation of a special corps of nurses has not yet been adopted, as the teaching now given to the nursing orderlies, and the stringent rules as to disinfection, are considered to have minimised the danger referred to.

ANTI-TYPHOID INOCULATION.

Two further preventive measures have been undertaken. Instead of waiting until the patients feel ill enough to go to hospital, frequent inspections have been held with a view to finding out enteric cases in an early stage of their illness. The other preventive measure has been anti-typhoid inoculation. During 1909 this has been extended in a most satisfactory manner, and the measure may be considered to have been a popular one.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)