

tion of biniodide of mercury may be used as a disinfectant at strengths of 1-500 to 1-2,000. But in weaker solutions, say 1-5,000, it becomes only an antiseptic. The spores, or seeds, of the various micro-organisms are far more difficult to kill than the adult germ.

Sepsis can best be prevented by cleanliness and attention to hygiene in the daily life; by building up the strength of the body so as to increase its resistance to infection; by strict attention to the aseptic principle in all cases dealing with wounds; by burning or effectively disinfecting all material—e.g., sputum—known to contain micro-organisms.

The nurse has a great work before her in "preventative medicine." She must be a

NURSING AND THE WAR.

DISCIPLINE MUST BE MAINTAINED.

We wonder if nurses called up for duty in Territorial Hospitals realise they are under military rule, and must therefore conform to it; and as it is the first time that the Territorial Force Nursing Service has been mobilised, it cannot be expected to work without a hitch at first. We hope, therefore, that certain of our correspondents will feel assured that it is not because we do not sympathise with their difficulties that their letters are not published, but because we feel strongly that good discipline must be maintained, and that the best means of maintaining it is to take all difficulties and complaints (as few of these as possible) to the

Matron in charge of the institution in which they are working.

If not carefully arranged, the grading of the Nursing Staff may produce friction—and we own that it is not easy for women who have held authority as sister or night sister "to do Pro's work" under the direction of others with less experience, unless these others are women possessing exceptional capacity, tact, and discretion. "Pro's work" must be done, and the best way to get over the difficulty is to make each "staff" do her own.

Then, again, where medical students are on duty as orderlies, we presume they are there as *male* nurses

and *not* as medical students, they must therefore not expect to be waited on by female nurses, who are not there for that purpose.



NUNS TURNED INTO THE STREETS AT MALINES BY THE GERMANS.

power for health and clean living from one end of the country to the other. But unless she is deeply imbued with the necessity of cleanliness, and unless she has been thoroughly taught the right methods of working, she must fail.

This is one of the great reasons for the organisation and registration of the nursing profession, an efficient and liberal education in the practice and theory of nursing, and sufficient disciplinary powers given to a central and representative committee to suspend unworthy or offending members. Until such powers are granted to nurses their profession cannot be so great a power for usefulness as its members earnestly desire.

GLADYS TATHAM.

We continue to receive a large number of letters from probationers and trained nurses and a few from Matrons on the question of admitting Red Cross workers into hospital wards and the operating theatre for short terms of "experience" prior to being granted certificates as Red Cross Nurses. Great pressure has been brought on hospital matrons, many of whom strongly disapprove of the system, to have such workers admitted, in some instances to "see operations and help with the dressings in the wards." Those who decline to receive such pupils incur the displeasure of the medical staff—and especially

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