

however, the greatest merit of Mr. MALABARI is that he was the warmest advocate for the improvement of the condition of women in India, and exerted all his energy and influence in their cause. This led Miss NIGHTINGALE and other well-known ladies to take a deep interest in his career.

A CORRESPONDENT to the *Evening News and Post* pertinently asks: "Sir,—Is there a governing body at the London Hospital, or is the Matron the supreme authority at that Institution? Having lately had some experience of its inner working, I have thought of seeking out the governing power. I am told it is the Matron, and that it would be useless to appeal from her. It seems so, and, if it is so, I suppose there is nothing more to be said. All the same, I would suggest to Mr. MURRAY IND to assert himself a little more; the one-woman power in the Hospital is not the most pleasant for those who have to seek its aid or the most creditable to those who are supposed to be responsible for its management.—I am, &c., EAST-END." This is a question which a section of conscientious Governors have been asking ever since the disclosures before the Select Committee of the House of Lords.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* writes: "At a meeting of the doctors of the Berlin Charité Professor KOCH confirmed the discovery of the influenza bacillus. Dr. PFEIFFER and Dr. CONON, who afterwards spoke, showed that they had made the discovery separately. The germ is a bacillus, not a *coccus*. It is extremely small and not round, but staff-shaped, and rather knobby at the ends. The bacilli generally appear in pairs, and thus have a certain resemblance to FRIEDLANDER'S pneumonia *coccus*. The influenza germ is the smallest bacillus yet discovered, hardly a quarter as large as that of the septicæmia of mice. Among the further peculiarities it possesses are great immobility, the intenser colouring of the knobby ends (as compared with the middle) on treatment with LOFFLER'S methylene blue, and great aversion of the pure cultures to flowing together, each standing by itself as a separate and extremely minute droplet. On transmission to rabbits and monkeys, the pure cultured germs produce symptoms like those of influenza. Dr. PFEIFFER is of opinion that the *sputum* is the most effective medium of infection, and pleads that it must be isolated, removed, and rendered harmless as quickly as possible. Dr. CONON further remarked that the bacillus disappears from the blood as soon as the disease is over. Professors KOCH and PFEIFFER both declared the

identity of Dr. CONON'S germ with Dr. PFEIFFER'S bacillus, but they have not yet succeeded in cultivating it, or producing influenza by its transmission."

"THE past week," says the *Lancet*, "has been marked by a rapid extension of influenza, both in this country and abroad. It has also been notable for the announcement from Berlin that Dr. R. PFEIFFER has discovered in the *sputa* of patients suffering from the affection a bacillus which he believes to be pathogenically related to the disease. In this connection it may be well to call to mind the former discovery by Dr. JOLLES, of Vienna, two years ago, of a microbe in influenza which was suspiciously like FRAENKEL'S *pneumococcus*. Still, as there is *à priori* ground for believing that influenza is a microbic affection, we must await fuller details of Dr. PFEIFFER'S researches before passing judgment upon it. Although the discovery, if confirmed, will advance our knowledge of this mysterious plague, it cannot be expected to influence the lines of its treatment very materially; and it is quite unreasonable, as some are doing, to reproach the profession for not having ere now found a specific remedy first, seeing that there is no infective disease known for which it can be said that we possess a true specific. The laity may feel assured that the treatment of influenza is carried out on rational principles. It is noteworthy that, when the numbers attacked are considered, the mortality rate is lower than that from almost any other known specific fever."

THE Local Government Board has issued a provisional memorandum for the guidance of sanitary authorities upon the precautions advisable at times when epidemic influenza threatens or is prevalent, in which Dr. R. THORNE THORNE, having pointed out that the disease is spread by infection from person to person, makes the following recommendations: 1. Separation between the sick and the healthy should, as far as practicable, be carried out. Measures to this end have in some instances been adopted with marked success. 2. With isolation should be combined disinfection of infected articles and rooms. He adds: Persons suffering from influenza should not expose themselves in public places. Since the propagation of influenza is known to be promoted by the assemblage of large numbers of persons in a confined atmosphere, it is advisable that when an epidemic threatens or is present, unnecessary assemblages should be studiously

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