

NURSING MAGAZINE PAGE.

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THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

THERE is no subject upon which we so anxiously await the results of the latest research as that of cancer, the most dreaded of all human ills. The news therefore this week of the claim of Dr. Gye and Mr. Barnard to have discovered for the first time the infective agent in cancer, and to have determined also the conditions that must combine with its presence in the body for a malignant growth to be set up, must prove of world wide interest. Some time must necessarily elapse before the extent of the advance which has been made by this new contribution to research can be gauged; medical criticism must be awaited; but it is surely all in its favour that no startling claims have been put forward, and that it is based upon the work, over a long period, of eminent men of science. That cancer can now be ascribed to an unthinkable minute filter-passing bacillus and to a specific condition of the organ which it attacks may not at first sight seem to carry us very far towards either the prevention or the cure of the disease, for we can scarcely yet expect a vaccine that will secure immunisation. But it is a big step forwards towards a further understanding of this mysterious and terrible scourge, against which we can only fight—to quote Lord Cave in his preface to the report of the British Empire Cancer Campaign—"by continuous and patient effort". We hope to publish in an early issue of *The Nursing Mirror* a detailed account of the discovery.

THE ENTERPRISING PROBATIONER.

A Matron writes: A curious incident arose recently as the result of one of our doctors referring to instruments, as doctors will in moments of stress, by the simple name of their makers. I was called in by a probationer, in the absence of the ward sister, to a man who, according to her, was "having a bad fit," and when the house physician appeared, he turned to her and said, "Nurse, fetch the Mason's." Off went the enterprising young woman, and after a considerable time returned, not with the desired mouth-gag, but with a soiled and unwilling workman in her wake, whom she proceeded to guide to the bed screens. "I am sorry," she said, "but the masons have left work, so I brought a plumber!"

THE WISDOM OF THE SERPENT.

It is given to few to plumb the depths of a child's mentality in the way which Dr. H. C. Cameron is able to do. His lecture delivered at Guy's Hospital the first week in June to the American doctors visiting London revealed this quality in a remarkable degree, and contained many valuable hints to