

## Editorials.

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### A New Method of Cure of Insanity.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Physicians of Vienna, Prof. Wegner von Jauregg, in charge of the department of mental diseases in the General Hospital, announced that observing the remarkable improvement in the mental state of the insane while suffering or convalescing from acute diseases, especially those attended by high temperatures, he had produced acute disease artificially by way of experiment. He had injected a limited number of lunatics with Koch's lymph, and had observed that there had been a marked improvement in their mental state, which, however, declined as the temperature lowered. Sufficient data were obtained to warrant experimentation on a larger scale. Dr. Albert stated that he had seen marked improvement in patients in which transfusion of blood had been performed, attended by febrile reaction. The whole subject is one of the greatest interest, and the results will be watched for by all interested in mental diseases.

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### The Medical Service and the Victoria Cross.

THE awarding of that much coveted distinction, the Victoria Cross, to Surgeon-Captain Whitchurch, adds another to the long list of names of medical officers who have deservedly received honor at the hands of the Sovereign. Captain Whitchurch, during the late siege of Chitral, went out under a heavy fire and brought in a brother officer who had been wounded in a sortie, and who would undoubtedly have been cut to pieces by the savage enemy had he not been rescued. It is remarkable that of the 162 Victoria crosses now held by living men, sixteen, or twelve per cent., were won by medical officers of the army or navy. No other branch of the service can show anything like this proportion. It is all the more remarkable when we remember that the list includes many non-commissioned officers and men, which fact largely increases the percentage in favor of medical men. There are only ninety-one officers of other branches against sixteen medical officers; in other words, one-seventh of all crosses for distinguished valor awarded to commissioned officers are won by medical officers. And yet there are to be found men who would disparage the service and who persistently fight against executive powers being given to medical officers. The engineers or artillery are no more scientific, and in the matter of the winning of the Cross, they are simply not in it with the army and navy medical staff.