

not more than a quarter of an hour, the tongue was normal in size, and nothing more than a little stiffness was experienced. The woman assured me that the wasp stung her on the dorsum of the tongue. This seems to me a very useful 'tip' in these cases, which, if the doctor lives some little distance from his patient, may assume dangerous proportions before he can arrive."

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT asks "whether the master of the Workhouse is in authority over the nurses or is the medical officer? in view of a statement which has recently been made, that the former can give leave of absence to the nurses without the knowledge or consent of the latter." Where the medical officer is resident, as in many of the chief Poor-Law Infirmaries, we believe that he is invested with the full control over the Nursing Staff, and the master of the workhouse has no authority. Where the master is the sole resident officer and the medical man only visits the sick wards when necessary, the master is the controlling authority, but he would be held responsible if he permitted any nurse to go off duty upon which she had been placed by the medical officer.

\* \* \*

CONSIDERING the large extent to which koumiss is now used for the feeding of patients with gastric diseases, the following note from the *British Medical Journal* is very important and interesting. "Quite recently considerable alarm was occasioned in Jeleznovodsk, one of the most frequented of the Caucasian watering-places, by the occurrence of a large number of cases of severe illness following the drinking of koumiss. Upwards of a hundred persons were seized on the same day with all the symptoms of acute irritant poisoning. It was at first feared that an outbreak of cholera had occurred, but it was soon discovered that each of the persons affected had drunk koumiss obtained from one and the same source—an establishment officially authorised for the sale of the drink. The koumiss sold here was daily examined by the authorities as to its fitness for consumption, and the sample taken on the day in question had not been found to contain anything unusual. The matter was at once taken up by the authorities, and samples of the koumiss which produced such untoward results have been examined by experts. It is now announced that they have been found to contain no foreign matters of a metallic nature, and that therefore the rumour that arsenic had been added is unfounded. The result of the examination for alkaloidal bodies has not yet been made known."

S. G.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

## The Death at the London Hospital.

### INQUEST AND VERDICT.

THE following report appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the 19th inst.

The inquest on the body of little Michael Francis Spallond, the two-year-old son of a waterside labourer, living in Caroline Street, Commercial Road, was held, this afternoon, by Coroner Baxter, at the London Hospital. The child died in a bath, and Mr. Edward Bedford, Solicitor, appeared on behalf of its relatives, to assist in discovering the circumstances under which the fatality occurred.

The mother stated that, on the advice of a local doctor, she took her child to the hospital in order that it might undergo an operation. Last Saturday a messenger came from the hospital to fetch her, and when she arrived the doctor told her that there had been a sad accident, and her child was dead. The boy had been placed in a bath, and although the doctor did not say so in as many words, she got the impression that her child had been drowned.

#### THE HOUSE SURGEON'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. J. F. Johns, house surgeon at the hospital, said the child was brought to the hospital for an operation. That was done, and as the child did not seem to get on well afterwards, he ordered hot hip baths three times a day for periods of twenty minutes to half an hour. At a quarter to twelve he was in the ward, and inquired of the Sister how the child was going on. He was told the boy was better, and was in the bath. He left the ward and walked down the corridor to the Central Hall, and almost immediately afterwards he was fetched by Nurse Phelps. He went to the bath room and found the child dead, and the sister was applying the proper treatment under what she considered to be the circumstances. He measured the depth of the water, and found it just under six inches. Less water than that would have been quite useless for the desired purpose. The bath was in such a position that it could have been seen from any part of the ward—the Princess Beatrice ward. The bath, which was on a table, was a narrow, shallow bath, forty-eight inches long. There had been no accident ever occur in the bath to his knowledge.

The Coroner said that under the circumstances the post-mortem had been made by the highest authority, Dr. Smith, and he would not ask Mr. Johns about that part of the case.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)