

At the annual banquet held in support of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, and presided over by the Lord Mayor, it was stated that since its foundation in 1868 an average of 1,500 children had been admitted annually to the wards of the hospital, and 320 had been sent annually to the seaside branch. In addition, over 35,000 were treated annually in the out-patient and casualty department. They would therefore recognise the fact that it was no mere trifling or insignificant work that this hospital was instrumental in carrying out. The annual cost of the hospital was £8,500, and of the seaside branch £900, making £9,400, towards which the only assured income was £875 derived from sums invested on account of cot endowments, special gifts, and so forth. The annual subscriptions amounted to a little over £2,200, thus leaving over £6,000 to be obtained from other sources to complete the yearly cost of the ordinary maintenance of the two establishments. The management had, therefore, to appeal to the generous and benevolent public to make up that great deficiency. Mr. Hayes, the secretary, announced subscriptions amounting to about £1,800.

We are glad to see that the Mayors throughout the kingdom are anxious to commemorate the late Queen's reign by local improvements, and at Southampton it has been decided to spend the memorial fund towards the completion of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. There is urgent need for a new and suitable Nursing Home. £5,000 is required for this, and £6,000 to pay off the debt on recent improvements in the hospital. We quite agree that when this £11,000 is in hand, and the hospital renamed the Royal Victoria Hospital, Southampton will have something to be proud of by way of a memorial.

A despatch received at Brussels from Lorenzo Marques states that the greatest misery exists among the Boer families in the Zoutpansberg, Komati Poort, and Middleburg districts. Large numbers are dying from hunger and typhus. The mortality among the burghers in Botha's camp is also said to be very high.

Some striking figures, collected by Dr. Neumann of Berlin, with regard to mortality and morality among illegitimate children, are given in the *Medical Magazine*. Here is an extract: "The relatively higher mortality of illegitimates continues through childhood, and Dr. Neumann finds that, owing to death or legitimation, only 140 out of 1,000 reach their twentieth year, whereas the proportion in the whole community is over 500. This is fortunate for society, for Dr. Neumann estimates that between the ages of twelve and twenty illegitimates furnish twice their relative proportion of criminals, while each criminal is punished more than twice as often as his "legitimate" comrade in crime, *i.e.*, he has a special tendency to the habitual type. Dr. Neumann's facts refer to illegitimates in Berlin. It would be interesting to know how they compare with similar facts concerning illegitimates in this country.

The new war hospital at Bremerhaven is to be ready this week. It will accommodate 300 soldiers invalided from China. There are twenty-eight separate buildings, each one of large dimensions.

Is Alcohol a Food?

In discussing the question, "Is Alcohol a Food?" before the members of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, at their rooms in Chandos Street, Dr. C. R. Drysdale, Consulting Physician to the Metropolitan Hospital, dealt with the subject under two heads. (1) Is alcohol a true food, and (2) is it a good remedy in disease? Taking human milk as a type of what a true food must be, and seeing that it contained only water, albumen, sugar, butter, and a few earthy salts, but no trace of alcohol, he refused to admit that alcohol should be so classed any more than chloroform, ether, or other similar compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. The proper definition of a food was, he held, a substance which, when assimilated and oxidised, was productive of an effect in warming the body or giving force to it. Alcohol was, on the contrary, a slow poison, which tended to curtail life and to produce a host of diseases. He mentioned that his own mother, who was a total abstainer, lived to the age of 100 years. As to the second question, he did not think that alcohol was a good remedy in disease. Dr. Nansen took no alcohol with him in his expedition to the North Pole, asserting that it was of no service in the treatment of disease, whilst its use was most dangerous in such cold as he had to encounter.

New Preparations, Inventions, etc.

FRY'S COCOA.

It would seem, at first sight, to be telling a tale which everyone knows, to mention the special excellencies of Fry's Cocoa. But we find that there are many nurses who are not aware of the special cocoas made by this well-known firm for invalids. It is needless to say that the cocoas are absolutely pure, but, as the *Medical Times* has pointed out, Fry's Concentrated Cocoa contains only a small proportion of the natural fat of the bean, and it is, therefore, eminently suitable for invalids and convalescents whose digestions are impaired by illness. For such patients also Fry's Malted Cocoa should be better known by nurses. It is a combination of Fry's Pure Cocoa Extract, with Allen and Hanburys' Extract of Malt. It is, therefore, rich in muscle and nerve-forming elements, and forms a most valuable stimulating, as well as nutritive agent. It is freely soluble in boiling water or milk, making a delicious and refreshing beverage. In our experience, it is especially valuable for patients who are not allowed to take tea, to whom coffee is as a poison, but who cannot digest the ordinary cocoa. Such patients are often able to take the Malted Cocoa not only with pleasure, but with the greatest advantage; and private nurses would do well to remember this when such patients come under their care. Fry's Malted Cocoa can be obtained from any grocer, or direct from Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, of Bristol.

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