

### Annotations.

#### A NEW MILITARY AMBULANCE.

The experience of the recent war has made obvious the fact that the regulation military ambulance is an out-of-date conveyance, and that it is necessary to adopt one designed on modern lines if the greatest comfort of the sick and wounded is to be secured. The Government has, therefore, invited designs for a new Army ambulance of light construction, which, as far as practicable, will minimise the sufferings of the occupants conveyed in it, with the result that model ambulances have been submitted by various firms, as well as by the Royal Carriage Department, Woolwich Arsenal. The Arsenal Ambulance is designed to carry six wounded men, and the weight of the whole is 23 cwt. The wheels have indiarubber tyres, and it is provided with curtains to screen the patients. The adoption of a comfortable military ambulance will be a boon to our soldiers in future wars. War is of necessity a stern and terrible condition, but there is no need for its sufferings to be increased by the use of unsuitable conveyances for the wounded.

#### PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

The value of physical training for the young is recognised increasingly at the present day, and the Board of Education has issued a memorandum containing some practical suggestions for carrying it out, more especially in rural schools. The Board holds that this training should, as a rule, be given by the teachers forming the ordinary staff of the school, and that only in bad weather, or in the absence of any possible outdoor space should the drill be given indoors, fine days being utilised for this work by the transposition of the lessons on the time-table if necessary. If bad weather is continuous, and the school affords no space for indoor drill, then town halls, village institutes, parish rooms, or barns should be utilised. No expensive apparatus is required. It is pointed out in the memorandum that excellent as organised games are, such as cricket and football, they can generally only be played by a minority of the children, and exclude or fail to reach those most in need of physical development. The only way therefore of reaching all the children is by some form of regular combined exercise. This is needed by town and country children alike; for all during their school life

spend many hours at desks, not always well made, with little change of position and in air which is not of the purest. It is therefore important that the time devoted to physical drill should be utilised to the best purpose, and that every exercise should have its particular purpose and value in a complete system designed to develop equally all parts of the body.

#### THE VALUE OF REGISTRATION.

The value set by the State upon a registered qualification has recently been demonstrated in the case of a foreigner who put a plate on his door bearing the word "dentist" after his name. He explained to the solicitors of the British Dental Association that he thought he was entitled to use the word, being qualified in his own country, Austria-Hungary. He subsequently replaced the plate by another with the words "German Mechanical Dentist" in German. He was, however, fined £5 5s. and £3 3s. costs. When will the qualifications of trained nurses be similarly guarded?

#### A MAORI HOSPITAL.

The benefit of skilled medical treatment and nursing has been so well demonstrated in this country that even the poorest, in case of acute illness, turn instinctively to the hospitals for help for themselves and their children. It is more surprising, however, to learn that the Maoris of the Karioi district in New Zealand are so anxious for a hospital where their sick can be received that they have given some of their best land at Raetihi as a site for this purpose. It is said that hundreds of this fine and loyal race die from the want of knowledge of the simplest laws of health and good nursing, and that the race will die out unless something can be done to provide hospitals where their sick can be cared for, and more especially where sick infants and young children can be nursed and fed. In the country districts, pork and potatoes are often their only food, and where through illness these cannot be assimilated, deaths too often occur for want of suitable nourishment. An effort is now being made to establish a hospital on the site under the shadow of Mount Ruapehu, near the centre of North Island, given by the Maoris for this purpose. We hope the appeal may be fruitful, and that the skilled care of the sick, which we have learnt to appreciate and support in Great Britain, may be available in days to come for the fine aboriginal race of New Zealand.

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