

### Annotations.

#### ARCTIC CONSUMPTIVE RESORTS.

Commander Peary is so strongly convinced of the health-giving properties of Arctic air in the treatment of consumption that the establishment of sanatoria within the Arctic circle is receiving the serious consideration of the medical profession, and financiers are discussing the advisability of furnishing funds for the construction of the first Polar sanatorium. The Commander's views on the future of sanatoria in Polar regions as health resorts for consumptives are founded on his observations of the effect of the lasting cold on several members of his party who were slightly consumptive. These have made him a firm believer in the benefit of Arctic air for cases of this kind.

It will be interesting to know who will apply for the Matronship of the first sanatorium in Polar regions, and what will be the uniform of the nursing staff. Prizes might be offered for the best design, both utility and appearance being taken into consideration. We can imagine the approach of a night nurse in a well-fitting costume of white fur being mistaken by a sleepy patient for that of a Polar bear.

#### THE IRISH CORONATION FUND FOR NURSES.

At a recent meeting of the Citizens' Coronation Committee held in Dublin, the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath presiding, it was resolved to invite the Lady Superintendents of hospitals in Dublin to elect three representatives of their number to meet selected members of the Citizens' Committee, to consult with them how the objects of the Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland could be still further promoted and additional public support enlisted. Also to consider the principles upon which the institution should be founded. This is a wise step on the part of the Committee, and should be productive of good results. When the Lady Superintendents have intimated to the Committee the names of their selected representatives the date of the conference will then be fixed.

#### DEATH IN THE POT.

The appalling ignorance of the lower classes as to the proper food for infants and young children is illustrated almost daily by the death of some child. Haddocks, sausages, bacon, beer, not to mention bread-and-butter, and suet dumplings, are all considered suitable articles of diet for an infant a few months old. Compared with these, "a little of the gravy on the

grandmother's finger." from the supper-dish of a family at Fulham seems comparatively inoffensive, yet events proved that there was "death in the pot." The basis of the dish was a frozen rabbit which was jugged for dinner on Sunday and warmed up for Monday's supper. The result was that during the night all the family who had eaten this dish became seriously ill, and the infant of four months old, who had had some of the gravy, as related above, died the following day.

Now that we as a nation depend so largely on frozen provisions for consumption, the difficulty experienced by the poor in protecting themselves from ptomaine poisoning is considerable. They buy the cheaper foods, with the result that they are specially subjected to the danger of bacterial infection. And, short of this, the disadvantages of a frozen food diet are manifold, as was ably set forth in a recent article in these columns by Mrs. Carmichael Stopes. Some idea of the extent of the frozen food supply of this country may be gauged from the evidence given by the vendor of the rabbit at the inquest held in the case above, who said he had never had a complaint before, and he sometimes disposed of 3,000 rabbits a week. He had been to the wholesale house who supplied him, and during the week they had sold 350,000 of the rabbits, and had not had a single complaint. If this is the average output of a single house the total trade in frozen provisions must be enormous.

We wish that the middle and artisan classes in this country would follow the custom prevalent in Scotland of feeding young children largely on cereals and vegetable foods (we do not, of course, refer to infants, who should be fed exclusively on milk). No better evidence of the nutrient value of oats and the allied cereals could be given than the physique of the race which is brought up largely upon them, and which is certainly greatly superior to that of persons whose diet includes chiefly tasty tithbits of doubtful nutritive properties.

#### IS IT A FACT?

It is asserted that a drawback to the practice of medicine by women is the time they require to respond to a night call. A man gets into his dressing-gown and goes downstairs, whereas a woman has to go through numerous solemn rites before she can show herself. It would be interesting to know if this is the experience of institutions where medical women hold appointments.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)