

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss L. P. Lessey has been appointed Matron of the Gravesend Hospital. She was trained at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, and has held the position of Sister and Matron of the Boston Hospital, Lady Superintendent of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and Matron of the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Miss Crichton has been appointed Matron of the Grimsby and District Hospital. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and was subsequently Staff Nurse and Temporary Sister in that institution. She has also held the positions of Night Superintendent and Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and of Assistant Matron at the City Hospital, Sheffield.

Miss Florence D. Lewis has been appointed Matron of the Radcliffe Ramsbottom, Whitefield, and Bury Isolation Hospital. She was trained at the Union Infirmary, Stockport, and, after gaining some experience in private nursing, held the positions of Charge Nurse on the hospital ships at Dartford, the isolation camp for small-pox at Edmonton, and the isolation hospital, Hertford, and of Superintendent Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary, Canterbury. She holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

Miss Amy L. Bridge has been appointed Matron of the Hospital Samaritano, Sao Paulo, Brazil. She was trained at the Stanley Hospital, Liverpool, and has held the positions of Sister at the Hospital, Grantham, and the Hospital, Burton-on-Trent, of Night Superintendent at the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, and of Sister at the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, London.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Henrietta Preston has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Prudhoe Memorial Convalescent Home, Whitley Bay. She was trained at the Hospital for Women, Liverpool, and the General Hospital, Stockport, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the General Hospital, Stroud, Sister at the Convalescent Home, Parkwood, Swanley, and Night Sister at St. Mark's Hospital, City Road.

SISTER.

Miss Jean B. Giffen has been appointed Theatre Sister at the Swansea General and Eye Hospital. She was trained for two years at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and for three years at the Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital, where she also held the position of Sister of the Children's Ward. She has also had experience of private nursing in connection with the Nursing Institute, Mentone.

Poisons.

By Miss E. L. B. FORSTER.

No. X.

TABLE NO. 2.

ORGANIC.

Oxalic Acid.

Oxalic acid is not official; there is no mention of it in the British Pharmacopœia.

Savin, vermin-killers, and oxalic acid are the only unofficial substances in the Poison Schedule.

Oxalic acid is an organic acid; its formula is $C_2H_2O_4$. It occurs very widely distributed in Nature, as acid oxalate of potassium and oxalate of calcium; in wood sorrel, dock, and rhubarb, in urinary calculi, as oxalate of ammonia in guano. One source of potassium is from the natural acid oxalate, also acid tartrate occurring in plants, which is converted into the carbonate, then from that the metal is extracted.

There are several ways by which it may be prepared artificially. If certain organic substances, such as sugar, or starch, be treated with nitric acid, oxalic acid is formed.

But commercially it is prepared by heating sawdust, or wood-shavings, with caustic potash and caustic soda; oxalates of the alkalis are then formed. On treatment with lime, oxalate of calcium is thrown down, which is insoluble. This is treated with sulphuric acid. Sulphate of calcium is precipitated, and oxalic acid is left in solution. This is evaporated down, and left, when oxalic acid crystallises out. There is no acid present in the wood, only the elements required to make it; these, under the influence of the alkali, unite, to form an oxalate.

It is frequently used in chemistry, especially for standardising certain solutions. It is an excellent reducing agent. Its salts—the ammonium and calcium ones—are used as test reagents.

It is used by dyers and calico printers; also by marble masons for removing stains, and for household purposes for removing stains of ink from linen.

Acid oxalate of potassium called bin-oxalate or hydro-potassic oxalate, KHC_2O_4 (commonly called salts of sorrel or salts of lemon), is more often employed for the latter purpose.

The cases of poisoning from the acid or the bin-oxalate are more numerous in England than in any other European country. The other neutral salts are not so deadly.

In cases of poisoning the best antidote is chalk, magnesia ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 ounce in a tumbler of water), olive oil, demulcents.

Chloral Hydrate and its Preparations.

Chloral hydrate, or trichlorethylidene glycol (sometimes called hydrous chloral), is prepared by

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)