

delicacies as an inducement for the public to buy tickets for the London Hospital Ball:—

“From inquiry I learn that the larks eaten are foreign and not English larks; that they are not the *singing* lark at all; that they nested and reared their little ones far earlier than English larks; that they were not killed for the ball, but simply bought on the market, and that probably many of them were sparrows! I have no wish to eat larks. As to quails, I observed in last Sunday's psalms that God provided the Israelites with quails!—many more than 3,000—as they were the alternative food to manna, which the Israelites had sickened of.”

This correspondent adds in a postscript that he forwards this information out of consideration for our nocturnal repose, “simply to let you sleep easier,” for which heartfelt thanks. We beg to assure him that weary wakeful hours are now a thing of the past, and that the rat-tat preparatory to the entrance of early tea finds us snoozing comfortably after eight hours' dreamless slumber!

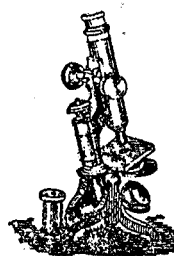
Joking apart, of course if Society finds play-acting and dancing an adequate *quid pro quo* for cash down, ostensibly for the benefit of the sick and suffering, we cannot hope to appeal to a spring of generosity which existeth not. But we deprecate a standard which includes the necessity of advertising what dead things will be provided for their carnal appetites, the brands of the champagne and liqueurs they may lap *ad lib.* to inspire their somewhat banal wit, and even the fact that the cheery sparrow may be fraudulently substituted for the divine-voiced lark is little consolation to us. The whole tone of these “charity” functions is intolerably gross and vulgar, and an insult to that true “charity” which desireth “spiritual gifts,” and does not “behave itself unseemly,” the charity which was the corner-stone of our splendid old hospital foundations, the gift of the “right hand” which withheld from the “left hand” all knowledge of its tender solicitude for a needy brother. The flaunting insolence of latter-day “Society” patronage of their poor sick fellow-creatures is an insult in the name of charity, and we deprecate the pandering of hospital managers to their vain and heartless methods.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

The annual meeting of the Church Society for the Promotion of Kindness to animals will be held at the Church House, Westminster, S.W., on Monday, July 6th, at 3.30 p.m.

Medical Matters.

PRESENT STATE OF SERUM-THERAPY.



The following condensation of a paper on the present status of serum therapy in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* will prove interesting reading and very useful to those who are not quite familiar with the subject, as a general guide to a more extended study of the question. “There are two main kinds of sera: (a) those having an anti-bacterial action, such as the anti-pneumococcal, anti-typhoid and anti-plague sera; and (b) those having a more purely anti-toxic action, such as the anti-tetanus, anti-diphtheritic, and, perhaps, the anti-cellular sera. The following are some of the principal sera studied:—

“1. *Anti-diphtheritic serum*.—Little may be said of it, as its value is well understood. Welch states that by its use the mortality in all forms of diphtheria has been reduced from 40 per cent. or more to less than 15 per cent., and, exclusive of laryngeal and operative cases, to 5 per cent. and even less. During the last two years anti-diphtheritic serum has been used in the treatment of other conditions than diphtheria (pneumonia and pertussis), and its applicability may be found to extend beyond the one condition.

“2. *Anti-tetanus serum*.—The results with this serum have been distinctly disappointing, and the reports are in little agreement. In Italy, Baccilli's carbolic acid treatment seems to give as good results as either Tizzoni's or Behring's sera. There are three ways of giving the anti-tetanus serum: the subcutaneous, the intra-cerebral and the sub-arachnoid or spinal methods. On animals the intra-cerebral method has given some brilliant results. The author says: ‘We have in tetanus anti-toxine not a specific, because it has failed too often to have merited such a name, but a valuable remedy in the treatment of the disease, and one that cannot be neglected till a better is supplied.’ Unfortunately, tetanus anti-toxine deteriorates rapidly and often seems inefficient at the start. Larger doses should be used than is ordinarily done, and they should be frequently repeated if the best results are to be hoped for, and as the serum itself is harmless, the only objection to this is the expense.

“3. *Anti-typhoid serum*.—The development

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