

### Annotations.

#### TRANSPORT OF THE WOUNDED IN WAR.

In a paper read at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Swansea, in the Navy, Army, and Ambulance Section, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Broome Giles, F.R.C.S., gave an interesting description of a cavalry ambulance cart adapted to the Dundonald galloping gun carriage. There are, he says, at present four methods of transporting the wounded:—

1. Riding and supported by another trooper, or by means of straps and cords—a very slow and unsatisfactory procedure.
2. In panniers, which are exceedingly difficult to load, and really require two to balance.
3. In carts and wagons—a much better method, but rarely to be obtained when cavalry can act with advantage.
4. Carried in front of another trooper; this may be suitable for Victoria Cross competitions, and has often been of use, but it is certainly unworthy of a place in the transport of the twentieth century.

In the light ambulance cart, near the ground, accommodating itself to the actions of the horse without either affecting the comfort of the patient or capsizing, and adapted to the Dundonald galloping gun carriage, a very long step, Colonel Giles thinks, has been made in a forward direction.

The carriage described will contain two recumbent patients and an attendant, a water barrel, and a division for surgical appliances. A great advantage is that, even if the horse falls, or is shot, the cart will not capsize.

#### THE DANGER OF CHEAP SWEETS.

The constant supply of pence to children of the working classes for the purchase of cheap sweetstuff is a source of astonishment to many who are better off and who not only do not consider themselves justified in the expenditure involved, but also realise how prejudicial to the health of young children is the consumption of luxuries of often questionable purity. Money, indeed, often goes to buy sweets which can ill be afforded from the family exchequer, and which would be much better expended in wholesome and necessary food, or put into the savings bank; but to indulge a present impetuosity is easier than to inculcate a lesson in self-restraint, and therefore the desired pence are too often produced on demand.

We hope it is comparatively uncommon for

infants in arms, and at an age when milk should form their sole diet, to be given sweets, yet recently the eight-months-old child of a dock labourer died suddenly after eating some coloured sweets. The mother said at the inquest that she noticed the child's mouth was "full of dye," and the medical evidence showed that the illness was "set up possibly by the sweetstuff." Surely nothing could prove more conclusively our contention for the need of health missionaries to disseminate a knowledge of the laws of health amongst the people.

#### THE PROTECTION OF INFANT LIFE.

The annual report of the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the London County Council, which covers the year April 1st, 1902, to March 31st, 1903, recommends various amendments to the Infant Life Protection Act of 1897, amongst which are:—

Raising the statutory age of adopted infants from two to five years.

The notification of certain particulars in the case of adopted infants, and, further, the notification of any change of address of any person adopting an infant.

The prohibition of the reception of more than one adopted infant without the written sanction of the local authority.

The provision for further inspectorial powers in the case of persons who systematically advertise or answer advertisements for the care or adoption of nurse infants. Also of lying-in houses, whose keepers should be required to keep a register containing particulars of all infants born in such houses, and the name and address of the person to whose care each infant is transferred.

All of these reforms are highly desirable in the case of this most defenceless, and often unwelcomed, section of the community. The present rate of infant mortality shows that it is the imperative duty of the State to consider how it can further protect the lives of infants. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Department of Health in New York City has made a card index containing the names and addresses of 25,000 babies under six months of age, and also the names and addresses of the parents, and it is expected that shortly the names on this Babies' Directory will reach 50,000. With this as a guide, the Summer Corps of the Health Department will work, investigating and gathering statistics from rich and poor alike as to the health and condition of the infants so far tabulated.

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