

At the last meeting of the directors of Nicolson Memorial Hospital, Strathpeffer, it was intimated that Mrs. MacKinlay, Glasgow, had offered to found a bed at a cost of £500, in memory of her husband, the late Mr. MacKinlay, who was a frequent visitor to Strathpeffer.

Sleeping sickness is apparently caused by the tsetse fly. The Commission despatched to Uganda by the Royal Society has found that the distribution of the fly and that of the obscure tropical ailment agree.

Dr. Stiles, who, it is said, has discovered a parasite which he believes to be capable of destroying mosquitos by millions, is about to put the efficacy of the destroyer to the test at Cape May or some other place in New Jersey where mosquitos are prevalent. The investigation is undertaken at the request of Professor Smith, State Entomologist of New Jersey, who has helped Dr. Stiles in his search for a parasite suitable for the purpose.

The New York correspondent of the *Daily Mail* gives the following account of the disastrous results of severe burns received in experimenting with the X-rays and radium by Mr. Charles Dally, one of Mr. Edison's assistants, who recently developed cancer, which necessitated amputation of both his arms. Mr. Edison made a close study of the case, and now announces a course of treatment which he believes might be effective in preventing similar occurrences. He believes that the human body contains certain amoeboid cells capable of movement whose sole function is to restore injured tissue. He points out that Nature in the case of an ordinary cut, wound, or burn works through the medium of these cells in restoring normal conditions. His theory is that the X-rays destroy the amoeboid cells and thus prevent healing. Mr. Edison thinks that an antidote might be obtained by taking blood from a healthy person untainted by cancer or other malignant disease and injecting it into the patient's veins. This would supply enough strong amoeboid cells to attack the seat of the disease and conquer the malady. Mr. Edison says that the same theory might be applied to the treatment of cancer due to other causes, but that the whole subject is entirely a matter for surgeons and scientific physiologists.

It is reported that yellow fever is spreading in Mexico daily, in spite of the efforts of the authorities to check it.

In all large cities, says the *National Hospital Record*, we find hospitals located in the business sections, where the rush of traffic cannot but produce much dirt and dust, and we wonder how many municipal authorities have ever considered the duty they owe to the patients in these hospitals by keeping the streets adjacent to the hospitals in as cleanly a condition as is possible. Dust from the street will find its way into the hospital despite all precautions at the hands of the hospital management, and this dust is extremely detrimental to the welfare of the patients. It is the duty, therefore, of the officials of every city to take more than a passing interest in the paving of the streets adjacent to hospitals and in keeping them up to the highest point of cleanliness. The daily sweeping and sprinkling of such streets should be made imperative.

## Professional Review.

### LESSONS IN DISINFECTION AND STERILISATION.

A book which we feel sure will be welcomed by many nurses is "Lessons in Disinfection and Sterilisation," which comprise an elementary course of Bacteriology, together with a scheme of practical experiments illustrating the subject-matter, by Dr. F. W. Andrewes, F.R.C.P. London, D.P.H. Cantab. The book is published by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, price 3s. net, and, as the preface tells us, owes its origin to a practical class which the author conducted in the summer vacation of 1902 for some of the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It is, says Dr. Andrewes, "an expansion of the lectures and practical work of which that class consisted, and I have been induced to publish it because there seems to be no elementary book which deals with the bacteriological aspects of disinfection in a systematic manner. Sterilisation and disinfection play so important a part in modern medicine, surgery and obstetrics, and public health that their principles require to be understood by those who would practise them intelligently. They are problems in physics and chemistry applied to bacteriology, and can only be grasped from this point of view. The majority of those who are called upon to practise them have neither time nor opportunity for a complete course of bacteriological study; but it is not a difficult thing for any teacher to devise a short practical course of laboratory instruction which shall effectively teach the essential principles of disinfection. I have endeavoured in these pages to set forth the outlines of such a course. The book is written for those who know no bacteriology, but who need sufficient acquaintance with its principles and methods to be able to understand what they are doing when they attempt to carry out processes of disinfection. I have endeavoured to keep it within a small compass by excluding all that does not immediately bear upon this one subject, but I trust that the book may be of some service not only to nurses, for whom, in the first place, it has been written, but also to practitioners, who have no opportunity for a regular course in bacteriology, and even to those of the general public who may take an interest in such matters as are discussed." To the author's preface Dr. Klein adds one, in which he says:—

"I have read these pages with the greatest interest. They appear to me to offer in a small compass, and in simple and concise description, all that is known and worth knowing of the why and wherefore of 'Disinfection.'

"Every nurse and every person who is brought in contact with the sick-room will from this book be able to gather a most useful, correct, and intelligible account of the manner of preventing contagion and of neutralising and destroying contagia."

We have quoted at length from the prefaces because they indicate so admirably the scope of the book, and will convey to those nurses who have been away from hospital work for some time, and who wish to keep "up-to-date," the lines upon which it is requisite that they should extend their knowledge.

The first part consists of ten lessons, while the second deals with practical exercises and demonstrations.

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