

## Annotations.

## NURSING BY COMMUNITIES.

When it was decided to replace the *Hamadryad* ship at Cardiff by a permanent Seamen's Hospital as a Diamond Jubilee Memorial of Queen Victoria, the late Marquis of Bute gave the site, and promised a donation of £10,000. His will also provided that this should be increased to £20,000 if necessary, at the same time desiring that his trustees should arrange for the sick in the said hospital to be served by Sisters of some Roman Catholic Order, if such an arrangement could be made.

While recognising the right of donors to make bequests with conditions attached, we cannot but regret this particular condition. In the first place, in appointing nurses to any position, the appointments should rest solely on their professional qualifications. Secondly, it will be necessary to obtain subscriptions for the maintenance of the hospital from the public of all religious persuasions, many of whom will be deterred from subscribing by such a provision; thirdly, and equally important, there are very few Roman Sisterhoods which number many thoroughly-trained nurses amongst their members, and, further, the majority of Roman Orders limit considerably the services which Sisters may render to patients of the male sex.

## CRIME AND EDUCATION.

Some interesting figures are to be found in the criminal statistics for 1902 bearing on the relations of crime and education. During the past twenty years, during which the results of the Education Act may best be judged, the annual number of indictable offences reported to the police has fallen from 95,000 to 83,260, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the population and the improved means of detection. A large proportion of the men and women sent to prison in 1902 could neither read nor write, about 18 per cent. being unable to satisfy the easy tests of elementary instruction used by the prison authorities. Among the women prisoners the proportion of illiteracy was much higher, about one in five being unable to read or write. "The inmates of prisons," says Sir John Macdonell, in his introduction to the statistics, "are in the main the poor and the uninstructed." Out of a total of 122,423 male prisoners, only 174 were of "superior education"; out of 48,665 female prisoners only nine were in this category. The men who could "read and write well" numbered only 3,675 and the women but 794.

## Medical Matters.

## THE REFRIGERANT TREATMENT OF FEVER.



In a most useful paper on "Simple Expedients in Physical Therapeutics," Dr. W. E. Wynter describes a method of treating typhoid and other pyrexia conditions which in simplicity and convenience offers many advantages. It consists merely in arranging a sort of tent over the bed in which the patient lies naked or very lightly covered. The two ends may be left partly open to encourage a current of air, or the effect may be intensified by suspending a trough inside containing broken ice. In hospital the tent is usually made of metal hoops covered by a sheet or blanket, but in an ordinary bedstead a rod or cord extending horizontally about 2 ft. above the patient and attached to the head and foot-pieces is all that is necessary. In this way the surface of the body can be exposed indefinitely to an atmospheric temperature of about 60° Fahr., which can be easily regulated, the natural cooling effect of radiation and evaporation being thus enhanced. The great advantages of this method are its simplicity; its remarkable efficiency, the continuity of effect being not only of value in continued febrile states, but in reducing high temperatures; its comfort to the patient; the avoidance of the repeated shock and disturbance of applying water; and the freedom and security it gives to the medical attendant, who is not called upon to cope with periodical alarming temperatures, but can leave the nurse to meet the variations of the thermometer within a reduced range by regulating the draught or by applying ice or a blanket within the tent as indications require. Furthermore, he suggests that in place of the ice cup, with its constant tendency to get out of position, we should use an ice bag under the nape of the neck and occiput, which is more efficient and does not shift.

## RED-LIGHT TREATMENT FOR SMALL-POX.

Dr. Frank J. Charteris, writing in the *Medical Annual*, says:—"Finsen claims that in most cases of small-pox, including even confluent ones, suppuration does not occur if the patients are withdrawn at an early stage from the influence of daylight. The best way to do this is to cut off the chemical rays by the use of red curtains or red window-glass. This

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