

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss H. E. Glover has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Army Nursing Service. She was trained at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, and has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. At present she is Lady Superintendent of St. Ives Private Hospital, Melbourne, and was the first Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association. Miss Glover is a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

MATRONS.

Miss Ada B. Clarke has been appointed Matron of the Parish of Poitsmouth Workhouse Infirmary. She was trained at the Birmingham Infirmary, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the hospital under the Corporation of Great Yarmouth; Home Sister, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron at the Stockport Union Infirmary; and of Matron of the Steyning Union Infirmary.

Miss Magdalen Cartwright has been appointed Matron of the Dewsbury Hospital. She was trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, and the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool. She has held the positions of Charge Nurse at the Children's Hospital, and Toxteth Park Infirmary, Liverpool, and of Ward Sister at the City Fever Hospital, Birmingham, and at Skipton Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Miss S. Balfour Hope has been appointed Matron of the Cumberland Sanatorium for Consumptives, Blencathra. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has held the position of Matron of the Knightwich Sanatorium, Worcester, and the Grampians Sanatorium, Inverness-shire.

SISTER.

Miss Kate Thomas has been appointed Sister at the Florence Nightingale Isolation Hospital, Bury. She was trained at the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, and holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Bakewell has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Thompson Memorial Hospital, Lisburn, Ireland. She received her training at the Victoria Infirmary, Northwich, the Manchester Fever Hospital, and the Fulham District and Maternity Home. She has also held the position of Charge Nurse at the North Riding Infirmary.

CHARGE NURSE.

Miss G. M. Philpott has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Hertford and Ware Joint Hospital. She was trained at the St. William Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Rochester.

Notes on Serum Therapeutics.*

Many organisms, and notably those of diphtheria and tetanus, exercise their harmful influence by the secretion of a soluble poison or toxin, which is absorbed from the seat of infection and circulated in the body of the infected animal. One of the means of defence against the invasion of such organisms which is possessed by the animal body is the capacity to manufacture, and set free in the blood stream, substances which combine with the toxins and so render them inert.

By habituating a large animal, such as a horse, to the action of the toxin in increasing quantities, some cells or fluids of its body can be thereby so stimulated to produce and put into the blood stream antitoxins in excessive quantity, that the serum of the animal may contain sufficient excess for its useful employment as a remedy for the disease in man or animals.

Von Behring must be regarded as the founder of serum therapeutics. In 1890 he, with Kitasato, showed that the blood serum of an animal which had been immunised against tetanus was capable, when injected into other animals, of protecting them not only against poisoning with tetanus toxin, but also against infection with living tetanus bacilli. He also proved that, under certain conditions, a curative action could be demonstrated in animals which already presented symptoms of tetanus infection. Similar, though less striking, results were described in the case of diphtheria.

This work of Behring, though an epoch-making one, was not, however, the first suggestion that the serum of immunised animals contained substances which might be utilised for the protection and cure of other animals. Richet and Hericourt, in 1888, believed that they proved that the serum of a dog immunised against staphylococci protected rabbits against that infection.

Babes and Lapp, in 1889, showed that the serum of dogs immunised against rabies contained substances which, injected into other dogs, were capable of protecting them against rabies. But though the work of both these authors contained the germ of the idea of serum therapeutics, neither in the clearness of the expression nor in the completeness of the demonstration did they approach the work of Behring, which, by the experimental proof presented, first impressed the scientific world with the greatness of the conception, and opened a door for further investigations.

At the Medical Congress at Buda-Pesth in 1894 Roux read a paper on the treatment of diphtheria by diphtheria antitoxin, which first proved to the medical world that this was the one method of successfully combating the disease. The experimental and clinical data, and the favourable statistics

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