

Replies were received that Mr. Chamberlain's instructions would be promptly carried out, but in few instances were the Governors able to give any immediate information, which, when obtainable, was mostly of a negative character. The Governor of Natal wrote that the Under-Secretary for Native Affairs, who is intimately acquainted with the native life, has never known a case of cancer among the natives of the colony. In Gambia the physician consulted says that, so far as he is aware, cancer is unknown amongst West African natives.

Another circular was then issued suggesting that it was not improbable that the apparent absence of cancer in some populous colonies was due to the fact that most of the patients treated in the hospitals had not attained middle age, before which cases of cancer are rare in any country. This brought many replies.

A third circular, which states that the information sent in is increasing both in value and quantity, emphasises the importance of forwarding specimens for microscopical examinations when these cannot be properly made on the spot. The circular further states:—

The facts which have accumulated up to the present time appear to bear out the view that, on the whole, cancer is less frequent in aborigines than it is in civilised races. The Committee, therefore, earnestly desire that the cause of the apparent rarity may be more fully investigated, and they wish, in the first place, that attention may be particularly directed to endeavouring to ascertain the ages of such natives as may be found suffering from cancer, and also the average age attained by native men and women.

#### WASHING UNIFORM FOR MEDICAL MEN.

The progressive Medical Officer of Health of Halifax asks: "Why should not every milk-seller, like the butcher, appear in a clean white coat, especially as he is distributing a food much more likely to be contaminated?"

Why, indeed? But considering that in many hospitals medical men and students still do their rounds in broadcloth instead of in washing overalls, one can hardly blame the milkman for failing to appreciate "surgical" cleanliness where his trade is concerned. It is high time washing uniform was compulsory in all hospital wards for the medical faculty as well as for the nursing staff.

## Appointments.

### MATRON.

Miss R. Cox-Davies has been appointed Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. She was trained at the Newport and County Hospital from 1889 to 1893, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (where she was Gold Medallist of her year) from 1893 to 1896. During the next six years she held the various positions of Home Sister and Housekeeper, Night Sister, Matron's Secretary, and Ward Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In 1899 she was granted leave of absence by the hospital authorities, in order to serve as one of the four Sisters selected for duty with the Portland Hospital in South Africa. Subsequently she had the distinction of receiving official recognition of her services during the war in a despatch from the Commander-in-Chief published in the *Gazette* of September 7th, 1901. In May, 1902, she was appointed Matron of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, a position which she resigned in the following October for the position of Matron of the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road.

### LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss F. B. Cameron has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has held the positions of Night Superintendent and Assistant Matron at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, and of Matron at the Children's Hospital, Bradford.

### NURSE-MATRON.

Miss Jessie Maclean has been appointed Nurse-Matron of the Smiley Cottage Hospital, Larne. She received her training at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. She has also held the position of Charge Nurse at the Falkirk Infirmary, where she has occasionally performed the Matron's duties.

### SISTERS.

Miss Mary Connell has been appointed Sister at the Royal Western Ophthalmic Hospital. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield, and has held the position of Sister at the Infirmary, Burton-on-Trent, and at the Stanley Hospital, Liverpool.

Miss Florence M. Gibbs has been appointed Sister at the Union Hospital, Bradford. She was trained at the Union Infirmary, Kingston-on-Thames and has worked at the Ear Hospital, Manchester.

### NIGHT SISTER.

Miss May Stamthorpe has been appointed Night Sister at the City of Nottingham Isolation Hospital. She was trained at the Middlesbrough Sanatorium and at the General Infirmary, Huddersfield, and has held the position of Sister at the Stanley Hospital, and at the Mill Road Infirmary, Liverpool.

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