

Medical Matters.

CARBOLIC ACID POISONING.



Dr. A. Szwajkart reports in *American Medicine* a case of poisoning from carbolic acid in which he administered three teaspoonfuls of common vinegar as an antidote. The patient, a baby six months old, recovered. The child vomited after taking the vinegar and was then given a pint of warm milk in short intervals. He himself had at one time by mistake washed his hands in concentrated carbolic acid. After washing them in vinegar and then in water no trace of the carbolic acid burn remained.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLEASURE AND PAIN.

Although most of us think we have definite ideas as to the difference between pleasure and pain, the distinction between them is by no means clear to the physiologist. It is sometimes expressed, to quote an article by M. Bridon in the *Revue Scientifique*, by saying that pain involves the use of constrictor muscles, while in pleasure the muscles used produce expansion. Among the most primitive organisms there are no muscles except constrictors; the muscles of pleasure do not exist.

The life, therefore, of a *vorticella*, or other of those single-celled organisms which are the simplest living things, must be a life of indifference varied by pain; there is in it not even the germ of joy. Later, in organic evolution the extensor muscle becomes differentiated from this first form by gradual transition. At some time later it becomes predominant, becomes supple and perfected in its turn. We can take examples of this gradual growth. The heart, for instance, has in itself no sensations of pleasure; it manifests only the violence of passion, it responds only to agitation. Similarly, to take another example of the gradual upward tendency, M. Bourdel thinks that the play or gaiety of young living things, kittens or children, is not the expression of pleasure, but is largely automatic—animal, in fact. His crystallisation of the theories he holds is expressed by saying that "pleasure is a sentiment of ascending evolution; pain is the sentiment of the organism's strife against the causes of decay."

Appointments.

MATRON.

Miss Frances Cann has been appointed Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Hayes. She was trained at the Union Infirmary, Derby, and has held the position of Matron of the Convalescent Home, Holbrook.

SISTERS.

Miss Nina Whelpton Johnson has been appointed Sister at the Southwark Infirmary. She was trained at the General Hospital, Croydon, and has worked in connection with the Maternity District Home, Plaistow. She holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

Miss Ada Woolrich has been appointed Sister at the General Infirmary, Stafford. She was trained at the General Hospital, Nottingham, where she has held the position of Staff Nurse and Theatre Nurse.

NURSE IN CHARGE.

Miss Helena M. S. Thornton has been appointed Nurse in Charge of the new Sanatorium of the Scottish National Institution, Larbert, N.B. She was trained at the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, and the City Hospital North, Liverpool. She has also held the position of Nurse at the Town's Hospital, Glasgow, and at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. She has also had experience in private nursing.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Appointments.—The following ladies have received appointments as Staff Nurses:—Miss M. J. Hepple, Miss M. B. Williams.

Staff Nurse Miss E. M. Lang has been posted to the Station Hospital, Lincoln, for temporary duty.

Warned to prepare for Service Abroad.—Sister Miss C. G. Stronach; Staff Nurses Miss E. Barber, Miss W. M. Jay, Miss M. MacGregor, Miss B. F. Perkins.

Resignations.—The following Sisters have resigned their appointments on their marriage:—Miss D. V. Briscoe, Miss D. I. Rickards.

Changes of Station.—Sisters Miss A. Guthrie to South Africa from Guards' Hospital, London; Miss W. Potter to Royal Infirmary, Dublin, from Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich; Miss M. L. Potter to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, from Royal Infirmary, Dublin, in exchange with Miss W. Potter; Miss C. K. E. Steel to South Africa, from Guards' Hospital, London; Miss D. S. Vaughan to South Africa, from Station Hospital, Chatham.

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