

## Annotations.

## THE GENEVA CONVENTION AND WOUNDED WAR HORSES.

Lovers of animals will be glad to learn that the Church Society for Promoting Kindness to Animals has decided to memorialise the Great Powers to revise the Geneva Convention, which provides for the humane treatment of the wounded on the battlefield, in the interests of wounded horses.

Nations who engage in war, and men who adopt the Army as a profession, know the risks they run, and understand their fate when in the fortunes of the day they are struck down on the battlefield. But the dumb creation have neither objects to gain, nor country to serve when they take the field, and if, in the interests of their masters, they are put to pain and suffering, surely all civilised nations must realise the duty of alleviating that suffering as far as possible.

At the meeting which considered the question Sir Edward Ward, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, expressed the opinion that it would be an excellent thing to put war horses under the Convention.

General Thomson, Director-General of the Army Veterinary Service, said that under the scheme which had been adopted for the service of animals in war there would be provided complete hospitals, with dressers and units quite apart from any regimental system. He also stated that, with the exception of the Japanese, no army had a veterinary service so good as our own.

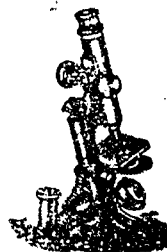
## THE ROYAL WATERLOO HOSPITAL.

The Ladies' Committee of the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Women and Children, which formed itself into an Association to assist the hospital last October, more than justified its existence at a meeting held recently at 13, Carlton House Terrace, at which the President, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, took the chair.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Harkness, showed that all funds collected went without deduction to the hospital, the expenses being met by special gifts. The President had collected 1,000 guineas to endow a cot, Lady Durning-Lawrence had given a similar sum through the Association for another cot, while Mrs. Gordon Clarke had arranged for the linen for twenty-three beds, and the Hon. Mrs. Bouverie had organised a system of sending hampers of fresh vegetables as gifts to the hospital, which should keep it free of charge on that score.

## Medical Matters.

## THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.



The India correspondent of the *Lancet* writes:—"A further and still more terrible record in plague mortality throughout India is returned for the week ended April 1st. There were 57,702 deaths, and 65,789 cases were reported. Even this probably does not represent the whole truth. Last week 53,895 deaths were recorded. In the United Provinces 23,387 deaths occurred, in the Bombay districts 3,056, in Madras districts 81, in Bengal 9,703, in the Punjab 19,015; in Burma 72, in the Central Provinces 338, in the Mysore State 104, in the Haidarabad State 470, in Rajputana 1,269, and in Kashmir 101. The latest weekly returns for Calcutta give 712 deaths."

In a leading article urging the necessity of more effectual efforts to cope with this calamity, the *Lancet* gives the following truly appalling figures:—"In 1903 the number of deaths from plague in India was 853,000; in 1904 it was over 1,000,000, being 1,040,000. Of the 1,000,000 deaths, more than 350,000 occurred in one province, and that province was the Punjab, the one from which some of our best Indian soldiers are recruited. Consider the possible significance of a fact like this upon the efficiency of our Indian army. The Punjab is not a large province, its actual population being about 20,000,000, or only two-thirds that of England, and yet the deaths in the Punjab during 1904 from plague amounted to over 250,000 in the course of twelve weeks only. We believe that these figures, which have been published before, have never been contradicted, though they seem incredible."

## DURATION OF THE TYPHOID BACILLUS UNDER PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

Professor Tanner Hewlett, writing in the *Journal of State Medicine* on the duration of the typhoid bacillus under particular circumstances, states that, from some of his experiments with sterilised waters, it would appear that it can live longer in sterilised tap water, one of high purity (in which it may survive up to four weeks or longer), than in sterilised Thames water, a water organically very impure. This conclusion, being antagonistic to the generally pre-conceived notions as to the probable behaviour of the bacillus, is of interest. As regards the duration in waters

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)