

Practical Points.

Use of Hot Solution of Soda in the Disinfection of Floors. Dr. Giuseppe Pecori calls attention in the *Gazetta Medica di Roma* to the lack of efficiency of the solutions of corrosive sublimate in ordinary use for disinfection of walls and floors. He finds comparatively useless many disinfectants ordinarily used. In order to obtain a disinfectant that would be efficient for the disinfection of hospital floors, as well as the rooms used in infectious cases, the author has made experiments as to the value of solutions of soda used hot for the destruction of the tubercle bacillus and other common germs. He finds that solutions of soda of two per cent. used hot and kept in contact with the bacteria for from five to ten minutes are not to be relied upon to destroy the bacilli, but that if solutions of five to ten per cent. be used hot, and applied for five or ten minutes they are efficacious and destroy all the bacilli. He believes that such solutions have a very real value in the disinfection of walls and floors, and that at the same time they are not at all injurious even to cement floors. Another advantage is that the solutions are exceedingly cheap. The commercial soda that is an oxyhydrate and contains 70-72 per cent. of sodium hydrate is the one that should be used.

Chloroform Water as a Hæmostatic. Dr. Spaak (*Le Journal de Médecine*) has used for several months chloroform water as a hæmostatic agent. He found it superior to all other styptics, and recognised the following advantages: It acts with marvellous rapidity. It has not the slightest disagreeable taste or odor. It is not escharotic. It is cheap and easily obtainable, and can be made as required. It is not unpleasant to apply, and does not interfere with the surgeon in his operations. The solution he recommends is two per cent., in simple water, as the menstruum."

Furunculus. Dr. Priestley Leech, writing in the *Medical Annual*, says that one of the best applications suggested by a Parisian dermatologist is the application to the boil, by painting, of iodine 5j in acetone 5vj. The use of this solution is said to check the development of boils and carbuncles.

The Preservation of Health. Mr. C. Stamford Read, a London County Council Lecturer on Health, in a book entitled "How to keep well," points that "health is largely obtained and retained by the throwing off of depressing emotions, thoughts and fears; by never allowing the mind to dwell on morbid apprehensions of possible ill-health; by cultivating a happy and healthy frame of mind, while at the same time the common-sense rules of hygiene are obeyed."

Mr. Read explains that a cold represents lowered vitality. It "really means an inflammation of some portion of the body, brought about by the action of a lowered temperature."

Legal Matters.

AN INFANT CREMATORIUM.

The French papers are full of a gruesome discovery in a private maternity home kept by a midwife near the National Library. It is stated that the Police Commissary of the Vivienne quarter found a stove built into one of the walls of the establishment, in which the newly-born infants were cremated.

The number of children made away with in this manner is variously estimated at from 1,200 to 1,500. The woman, according to the *Journal*, was largely patronised, and in return for substantial money payments disposed of the newly-born infants by cutting them in pieces and burning the remains in a stove. A doctor and several other persons are reported to be concerned in the affair.

In two cases in this country recently, women have been charged with disposing of the bodies of infants by burning. Surely it is time that the compulsory registration of still-births was strictly enforced.

Appointments.

CHIEF LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.—

The Central Committee of this Association have appointed Mrs. Davies as Chief Lady Superintendent. Mrs. Davies who has had a varied experience in Canada and Japan has already left England to take up her appointment. The four Nursing Sisters, whose appointments in connection with Lady Minto's Association we have previously chronicled, leave Tilbury for India on Friday 28th inst. by the P. & O. s. "Egypt."

MATRON.

Samaritan Hospital for Women, Liverpool.—

Miss May Wylie has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and has held the position of Night Superintendent and Ward Sister at the Hospital for Women, Liverpool, where she did Matron's duties for six months. She has also been Night Superintendent at the Rotherham Hospital.

Sussex Eye Hospital, Brighton.—Miss Jessie Elms has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Hahnemann Hospital, Liverpool, and has held the position of Sister at the Bradford Ear and Eye Hospital.

Jubilee Hospital, Woodford Green.—Miss Winifred Tucker has been appointed Matron. She was trained at King's College Hospital, London, and at the Evelina Hospital, Southwark, and for the last five years has held the position of Sister at King's College Hospital.

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