

that is to say, though they are dependent on the presence of so-called pathogenic bacteria, the immediate cause of disease is ptomaine poisoning, each species of bacterium manufacturing its own peculiar ptomaine. Dr. Griffiths has succeeded in extracting and describing eleven ptomaines derived from the bodies of different patients suffering from various infectious diseases. The ptomaine of scarlet fever, or *scarlatinine*, produces scarlet fever when injected into the system of any animal susceptible to the disease, though the animal may be, and probably is, quite free from the scarlet fever bacterium. Dr. Griffiths has also separated the ptomaines of diphtheria, parotitis, erysipelas, measles, glanders, pneumonia, and puerperal fever. He has subsequently experimented with these ptomaines when treated with Izal, the new disinfectant. Dr. Klein had already investigated its action on the pathogenic bacteria, and proved it to be remarkably effective in destroying them. Its action on their poisonous products appears to be no less satisfactory. *Scarlatinine*, after the addition of a solution of Izal, was injected into animals with impunity, and in the case of every one of the diseases previously enumerated, the ptomaine was rendered inert by an addition of this powerful antiseptic.

THE DUBLIN HOSPITAL SCANDAL.

The lay and medical papers, especially in Dublin, have recently contained lengthy accounts of what were termed the scandals at the Coombe Lying-in Hospital. The facts of the case appears to be wrapped in some mystery which the recent inquest upon the Matron of the Institution has by no means cleared away. It appears that the Master of the Hospital was recently asked to resign, in consequence of certain business irregularities which had been discovered, and that he thereupon left the Institution, and Ireland. Shortly after, the Matron was taken dangerously ill with peritonitis. The two facts were imagined to be connected with each other, and rumours were rife in consequence. The Matron died, and at the inquest it was proved that she died of blood-poisoning, and a verdict to that effect was duly given, but the precise cause for the peritonitis and pyæmia still remain in some obscurity. The pathologist who made the post-mortem declined to express a definite opinion on various points concerning which it is unusual for any reasonable doubt to exist in the mind of an expert; and, altogether, it is apparent that good grounds existed for the lack of confidence felt by the public in the management of the Institution. The lesson which the circumstances should teach, is the necessity of appointing a gentlewoman and a trained Nurse to such appointments as the Matronship of the Coombe Hospital.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It is prophesied that the Conversation of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be a great success this year. How could it be otherwise with the Royal President present, a humorous sketch from Mr. CORNEY GRAIN, and Mr. ALLAN CRAWFORD, the inimitable, drawing tears over "The Old Dutch."

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MISS CHARLOTTE DAVIDSON has been appointed Matron of the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton. She has, until lately, acted as one of the assistant Lady Superintendents at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. It is a matter of congratulation that a lady has been selected to fill this responsible position who has received her experience in a large English Hospital, to which a Nurse Training School is attached.

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MISS KATE L. LAING has been appointed Matron of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Southport. She was trained at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital in Dublin.

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MISS ELIZABETH KILLEN, who was trained at the Cancer Hospital, London, has been appointed Matron of the Glasgow Cancer Hospital.

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MISS MARGARET BARLAS has been appointed Out-Patient Sister (medical side) to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, where she was previously trained and worked for four years. Miss BARLAS gained her adult experience at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

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MISS BARBARA MILNE, who was trained and certificated at Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh, has been appointed Charge Nurse to the Workhouse Infirmary, Dundee.

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MISS ANNIE DIXON has been appointed Charge Nurse of the Female Ophthalmic Wards of the Lincoln County Hospital. She has worked for several years in the Institution, and, like most of her trained colleagues there, is a member of the Royal Chartered Corporation and a Registered Nurse.

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MISS FANNY P. SAUNDERSON, Miss MARY AITCHISON, and Miss EDITH M. HAWKINS, trained and certificated, in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, have joined a private Nursing Home in Nice for the Winter.

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MISS MARY DUNLOP, trained and certificated in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, has been appointed District Nurse to the parish of Houston, near Glasgow.

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