

easily passes the obstruction, and by the action of the gastric juice is rapidly coagulated in the stomach into a more or less solid mass. When, therefore, this is ejected by the action of the emetic, it forces any impacted substance in the oesophagus in front of it, and so causes its removal.

IVY POISONING.

IN the United States, even the children are original, and consequently it would seem that when they poison themselves, they do so in a somewhat unusual fashion. A New York contemporary reports that five school boys have recently died in that State as a result of eating ivy root. The symptoms were identical in each case, and consisted of stupor, extreme dilatation of the pupil, nausea, thirst, a feeble and irregular pulse, tremors, convulsions and collapse. There is a curious likeness, of course, between these symptoms and those found in cases of poisoning by other neurotic agents. But so far as we are aware no case of poisoning by ivy root has previously been recorded, and the symptoms chiefly resemble those shown in poisoning by belladonna.

POISONS IN FRUIT.

EXPERIMENTS which have been conducted for some time appear to have proved conclusively that salts of copper and of other poisonous materials sprayed upon fruit with the object of killing fungi, pass through the skin of the pear and are found in its body. If, therefore, so thick a peel as is possessed by this fruit permits poisons to transude through it, it is reasonable to believe that the fruits which possess much thinner skins, such as the plum, the peach, or the cherry, and so forth, will be equally, if not more, liable to absorb poisonous substances. This is a very important fact, because it is evident that those who eat fruit that has been sprayed with copper salts, or other poisonous materials, may be poisoned, even though every precaution may have been taken in washing or peeling the fruit to prevent the possibility of such an effect.

THE INFLUENZA FIEND.

THE present epidemic is certainly one of the most fatal which has yet shown itself in this country. The death rate for the last few weeks is greatly above the average, and the mortality amongst the old is very noticeable. Coming at the end of an unprecedented frost, when many aged frames had already been tried to the uttermost, it has claimed its victims with both hands. It is therefore earnestly to be hoped that the lessened death roll in London last week means that the epidemic is declining.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Queen has been pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Smith, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to be one of the Surgeons Extraordinary to her Majesty, in the room of Sir William Scovell Savory, Bart., deceased.

Princess Christian lately presided at a bazaar held at the Windsor Guildhall in aid of the funds of the local Infant Nursery. Her Royal Highness's stall contained a number of fancy articles, which included some water-colour sketches painted by Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein.

The Duke and Duchess of York visited St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, last week. Their Royal Highnesses were conducted through the wards by Sir William Broadbent, senior physician to the hospital. The visit lasted about an hour and a half.

The Duke and Duchess of York have become patrons of the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton.

The Duchess of York has become a patroness of the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

Miss Henrietta Hannath has been appointed Night Sister at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Miss Hannath was trained at King's College Hospital, worked for some time at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, and has recently held the post of Home Sister at the London Hospital.

We have received the Twelfth Annual Report of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Glasgow, which tells of excellent work successfully carried forward and extended. Great improvements have been made during the past year in the sanitary arrangements of the Hospital; but, of course, these have entailed upon the institution large additional expense, and it is to be regretted that the ordinary expenditure has exceeded the ordinary income by more than £1,400. Notice is given to the Nursing department, although we do not observe any special mention made of the valuable services of the Matron, Mrs. Harbin, whose work in this institution is so well known in the Nursing world. The death of one of the Sisters is recorded in graceful words, the Report stating

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