

## Medical Matters.

### THE HEALTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY.



IN considering the important question relative to the health of the British army in India, to which attention was recently given in these columns, the suggestion was made that all venereal diseases should be notified, exactly as infectious diseases are required by law to be notified in this country.

By this means, the propagation of disease would be more easily prevented, while at the same time its presence would be more certainly localised, and its consequent treatment more effectually carried out. We are, therefore, glad to observe that the Home Government have determined that certain rules of the Cantonment Act of 1895 which are at present applicable to cholera, small-pox, diphtheria and typhoid fever should also apply to all other contagious and infectious diseases. We cannot but feel that, for the present, this is probably the wisest solution of a difficult problem, especially as the inspection of the soldiers is to be compulsory for a specified term after infection, and the inspection of women is to be voluntary—but in justice all infected women who refuse inspection are to be removed from the cantonment. Any law making the inspection of women compulsory, and leaving the men free from control and treatment, would meet with determined and well-deserved opposition upon the part of all women inspired with a sense of justice and right. We should be inclined to recommend the erection of special hospitals for the treatment of venereal disease, in which all persons suffering from this terrible malady should be compelled to undergo medical treatment. Publicity would be the most efficacious means of stamping out the disease.

### FOREIGN BODIES IN THE BLADDER.

CONSIDERABLE attention has recently been drawn to this matter by important papers which have been published in Austrian and in German medical journals. It is well known that many cases of obscure bladder disease are caused by the presence of foreign bodies in the bladder, other than ordinary calculi;

and that, indeed, well marked stones have been formed by the deposit of urates or phosphates upon such foreign bodies. In an Austrian contemporary, notice is drawn to 115 such cases, in the majority of which the foreign bodies consisted of catheters or bougies. In many instances, the exact form and character of such bodies have hitherto been somewhat difficult to define; but in an instance recorded in a German contemporary the exact nature of the foreign body was easily revealed by the aid of the Röntgen rays. In this case—apparently that of a female lunatic—the light was placed over the hypogastrium and a perfect photograph of a hairpin was obtained. It was removed with considerably less injury than would otherwise have been the case because it was found from the photograph that the points of the pin were imbedded in the mucous membrane at the base of the bladder, and it was therefore withdrawn by fine forceps with some difficulty, yet without injury to the wall of the organ.

### BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

ATTENTION has recently been drawn to the frequency with which bleeding occurs from the ears, as well as from the nose in cases of Bright's disease. The bleeding sometimes, especially from the nose, is so severe that the nostrils have to be plugged; and it is probably due to the fact that the blood is so altered by the condition of the kidneys that it does not coagulate as easily as it should, and that the hæmorrhage therefore tends to persist. One patient whose case is described also showed what is less common, bleeding into the inner ear, setting up deafness and subsequently severe local inflammation. It is probable that these cases are not altogether so rare as they have hitherto been believed to be; because many patients suffering from kidney disease complain of more or less ringing in the ears and deafness, to which but little notice is paid, as it is considered to be due to the deterioration of the general health. It is possible that could the ears be carefully examined in such cases it might be found that bleeding had occurred into their inner cavities.

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