

regarded by authorities to be largely due to milk infection."

It is an encouraging sign of progress, however, that the efforts of such men as Coit, Rotch, Snow, Vaughan, Leeds, and others are bearing fruit, as evidenced by the number of certified milk farms now in active and successful operation in various cities of this country, under the direct supervision of a commission of physicians, chemist, bacteriologist, and veterinary surgeon. And that their efforts are entirely successful is proven by a case reported in a recent article received from Dr. Coit in answer to a question asked by the writer:—

"A Newark physician desired to have a baby supplied with fresh milk during an ocean voyage. Accordingly, on May 11th, he ordered twelve bottles delivered on board a steamer. With these he sent twelve other bottles, asking the steward to keep them on ice till the steamer should return to New York. This was done, and on May 31st they were handed over to a member of the commission. One bottle was opened and the milk found to be sweet. Other bottles were sent to the chemist and bacteriologist, and found to be in a remarkable state of preservation. Three days later, when the milk was twenty-four days old, it was tasted by a number of physicians and found to be perfectly sweet."

Such results cannot be passed over lightly. They emphasise the importance of the cleanliness in detail, exercised at a certified milk farm, in the production of milk for infant feeding. I would that such farms were more general.

Appointments.

MISS ELIZABETH LAW, of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Aberdeen, has been appointed by the Directors, matron of the Stephen Cottage Hospital, Dufftown, N.B.

Miss Anna Mennell, of the South-Eastern Fever Hospital, New Cross, has been appointed superintendent nurse of the Workhouse Infirmary, South Shields.

Miss Evelyn Hilton, whose appointment as assistant matron to the Midland Eye Hospital, at Birmingham, we noticed in our issue of July 24th, informs us that she was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, and not at St. Bartholomew's.

Medical Matters.

BERI-BERI.



THIS disease is at present attracting so much attention in Ireland that we have been asked by several correspondents to give some explanation of its nature and special characteristics. The word is usually said to be derived from a Hindoo term signifying a sore or swelling, although

some have believed that it is a Cingalese expression—beri meaning weakness. As a matter of fact, this latter explanation is the more probable, because the disease is always present to a considerable extent in Ceylon. Outside that island, it is chiefly found in India and China, although it is not unknown in Australia and in Africa, especially on the West Coast. It is characterized by extreme weakness together with swellings, œdema of the trunk and limbs, marked anæmia, and extreme nerve exhaustion; in fact, there is no doubt that the nerve disease is the real cause of the symptoms. Beri-beri frequently occurs in an acute form in which the patient rapidly falls into a condition of collapse, the cavities of the body becoming filled with fluid in a few hours; and it is often said that this form is only second to cholera in its extreme fatality. There is, however, a chronic form which is perhaps more common and which shows itself chiefly by the nerve symptoms, the anæmia and the swelling of the limbs, and from which patients often recover. It has been proved that there is a specific bacillus present in all cases of this disease, so that it must be regarded as infectious. The outbreak which has occurred in Dublin is similar to those which are usually met with, and it has shown itself chiefly amongst the class of the population which is the worst nourished and most unhealthy. The treatment which is adopted by most physicians is designed to improve the general health as quickly as possible, and great stress is usually laid upon change of climate, as a most important factor.

BURNS.

FOR many years, it has been well known to medical men that burns of the skin are often followed by certain affections of the internal organs, and that, as a general rule, the larger

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