

During the past financial year, a new wing containing accommodation for 10 children, as well as an Isolation ward, kitchen, bath room, nurses' sitting room and bedroom has, owing to the liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Mewburn, been built, furnished, and opened. The Committee acknowledge, in their report, the services of the Matron, Miss Gardner, who has now been connected with the institution for 23 years.

The fact is being continually demonstrated that we are only on the verge of the marvellous discoveries which the future of electricity holds for us. This is once more brought before us by the brilliant achievements of Nikola Tesla, the well-known electrician who has demonstrated the possibility of transmitting electricity for thousands of miles without loss of power or use of wires. Tesla has already astonished the scientific world in a lecture before the Royal Institution when he showed vibratory currents flashing around and through his body and producing phosphorescent electric light. With the enthusiasm of the man of science, he personally tested the theory which he had mathematically worked out, namely: that the terrific forces employed would not hurt the body if vibrated sufficiently rapidly. He accordingly built his machines, made his will, said good-bye to his sister, and debated some hours in front of the machine before risking his life on a theory. Finally he made the venture, and the current, as he had calculated, passed harmlessly through him, and lighted a lamp at the touch of his finger, as he had intended it should do. The possibilities contained in these brilliant discoveries are impossible to estimate.

There is little doubt of the truth of the proverb "that all men must eat a peck of dirt before they die," at least they will soon swallow that quantity if they have a weakness for the delicacy known as "ice cream."

From Dr. Foulerton's examination of eleven samples of this stuff are quoted in the report of Dr. Dudfield, a medical officer of health:—

1st sample.—There were found in this numerous bacillus coli communis, also human hair, linen fibre, coarse amorphous dirt.

2nd sample.—Carbon particles (soot), linen fibre, etc.

3rd sample.—Human hair, carbon particles, linen fibre, raspberry fruit debris, etc.

4th sample contained a large quantity of amorphous dirt, linen fibre, and minute round worm.

5th sample contained a large quantity of amorphous dirt, carbon particles, animal hair, etc.

6th sample.—No obvious added dirt. Sediment consists mainly of vegetable debris.

7th sample.—Very little added dirt, a few animal epithelial cells and strawberry fruit debris.

8th sample.—Large quantity of amorphous dirt, linen fibre.

9th sample.—No obvious added dirt.

10th sample.—A large straw, otherwise very little added dirt.

11th sample.—Carbon particles, otherwise very little added dirt.

Dr. Calmette, Director of the Pasteur Institute at Lille, has endowed that body with £10,000, the profits of one of his inventions at the distilleries of Seclin.

Our American Letter.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

"BARBAROUS BRUTE FORCE."



ECHOES of the war may still be heard, though they are beginning to die away. The investigation of camp horrors is so far only resulting in a general

whitewashing, for with the new and greedy craze of our political rulers for land-grabbing and territorial expansion, comes the cry, "the Administration must be upheld." Nurses have not been called upon much to testify before the Commission, yet of all people they are best able to state facts, and describe conditions. They are now returning in numbers from their war work, and the bald, simple, matter-of-fact descriptions of what they found and what they saw, like to the men's own tales for direct and unexaggerated simplicity, are such, that the most lurid articles in the sensational press, fall short of the actual truth. The most practical, unexcitable, and experienced women say that no descriptions, however sensational they might sound, could approach the horrible reality of all that they found in camp; the filthy arrangements, the disregard of sanitation, the starved condition of the patients, both from lack of supplies and from bad cooking, the pitiful evidences of neglect and bad nursing which their poor bodies showed; and all this not only in Cuba and on the indescribable transports, but in our own country and among men who never got to the front at all. It is to be remembered that the Surgeon-General was at first of the opinion that women nurses were not desirable in a field hospital and that the hospital corps men would be equal to the care of the sick in the great camps. This opinion circumstances afterwards compelled him to modify. On a large camp not far from our country's capital, the nurses on their arrival found all the patients' food supplies kept in the same room—or compartment—with slop-sinks, bedpans and their disinfectants, and garbage. This same arrangement was found by nurses elsewhere, in different parts of the country. Crude disinfectants were used so carelessly that bad patients all had burns, more or less severe, from contact with the disinfected utensils. The most frightful bedsores were common things, and the condition of filth in which the patients were brought from regimental hospitals could not be told. Dining-room and kitchen arrangements were usually extremely dirty, even to the danger point. Typhoids' dishes were washed with all the others, and nurses were sometimes obliged, for their own safety, to purchase and wash their own dishes, and to spend much of their scanty salary in buying necessary food.

The nurses suffered greatly from want of laundry facilities. It was often impossible to get clothes washed at all, and at Montauk Point, one hundred miles from New York City, they not only had

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