

in the case of milk, far more digestible. In cases where champagne is ordered, a light still wine, such as Hock or Moselle, will be found, when aerated with Sparklets, to be, in many cases, more suitable to the invalid than an ordinary champagne.

The invention, in fact, is a very valuable one. In South Africa and in the Soudan War, Sparklets, by their compact form, easy transport and most useful qualities, were found invaluable; and we doubt not that, in the sick-room, our readers would find their usefulness and popularity equally great.

TABLOID OPHTHALMIC PREPARATIONS.

Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, of Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., are now issuing in tabloid form a preparation of Euphthalmine Hydrochloride gr. 1/40, a drug which is specially suitable for ophthalmoscopic examinations. It produces rapid, full dilatation of the pupil, with moderate or slight disturbance of accommodation and no change in the intra-ocular pressure. Effectual dilatation is produced in twenty minutes' time, while the effect is at its maximum in about one hour's time after application. The value of Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome's tabloid preparations is so well known that little comment is required from us, and in no case is their worth more apparent than in ophthalmic work. We may, however, draw special attention to their usefulness in the tropics, where their portability and the fact that they do not deteriorate readily as do so many ordinary drugs, renders them quite invaluable. Indeed, we have heard the Principal Medical Officer of an important tropical hospital asseverate that the heads of this firm deserve baronetcies for the benefits they have conferred on mankind.

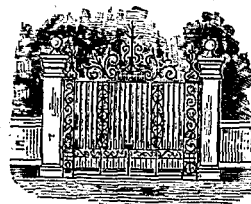
SAVON BLANCHE LEIGH.

A NEW soap, named the Blanche Leigh Soap, has been brought to our notice, as a pure emollient soap containing an odourless percentage of Ichthyol, thus rendering it antiseptic, and which is a most agreeable addition to one's toilet accessories. A different variety is the Transvaal Soap, which contains 2½ per cent. of Ichthyol. The word "Transvaal Soap" conjures up the vision of concentrated essences of soda and other strong alkalies, but nothing could be blander than the specimen submitted to us. We learn that it was used with great appreciation on the Hospital Ship *Maine*—hence, probably, its name. It costs 1s. for a box of three tablets, and, as its name implies, is a French soap, but it is obtainable in London from Madame Esmée, 5, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W.

Outside the Gates.

SOUTHAMPTON AND THE TRANSPORTS.

It was in October last year that I went down for the first time to see the troops go off, and watched five great transports full of Tommies wild



with excitement and enthusiasm, cheer, sing, roar and shout their way down Southampton water, whilst the Southampton population nobly backed them up. Southampton took the khaki fever, on the whole,

quietly; but to "go down and see a transport off" was a recognised show for many months when a friend came to stay. And there were so many of them. After a time they went off very quietly, except when an exceptionally popular regiment or a very great man sailed. You can't live at the docks and you can't cheer for ever. So Southampton saw the troops, the great traction engines, the horses, the huge stores safely and methodically stored on board, hardly turned its head and went steadily on with its work.

Then between the transports that went out, the transports and hospital ships began to bring their loads home—the refugees, the invalids, the wounded,—the stream flowed as steadily back through the docks as it flowed out,—a sadder stream, a more subdued stream, but a cheery stream for all that.

There was a wild outburst when Sir George White came home. There were barriers and a guard of honour, and a Mayor with an address; but the crowd broke the barriers and overflowed everywhere and drowned the speeches and shook Sir George White's hand off, and shouted "You kept the flag flying, Sir," with great and unruly enthusiasm, and generally misbehaved itself with patriotic ardour.

But the sick and wounded have been coming home now week after week; week after week the price we have been paying for one of the hardest (if not the most glorious) campaigns we have ever fought, has been literally brought home to us; and I am bound to say Southampton pays marvellously little heed.

The other day, however, I wanted to meet a transport. It is not so easy as it looks, for if you want to have any chance of being near the time when she comes in, you must get a friend to wire you when she is signalled as having passed Hurst Castle, and *then* she has an unpleasant knack of coming into dock at 6 or 7 a.m. or thereabouts.

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