

The simplest culicicide is kerosine oil, applied by painting the pool with a rag fixed on a stick and first dipped in a pot of oil. Quicklime and fresh tar are also effective, but all these either involve too lengthy a process, or would harm other life besides that of the mosquito larvæ. The inventive genius of the chemist still has to discover the ideal culicicide. It should be some cheap solid or powder which kills larvæ but not higher animals, and dissolves so slowly as to render a pool uninhabitable by larvæ for a long time.

The mosquito net recommended is one which has the roof as well as the sides made of netting, not of long cloth, which often is used. A loose frill or valance sewn on the net a foot above the mattress, and also tucked under it, is suggested as an additional precaution. It is becoming increasingly known that mosquitos, although not the cause of malaria, are the means of introducing it into a healthy subject. Of all the species of mosquito it is the female of the *Anopheles* which causes the trouble. In these the proboscis is long and thick, the wings are generally spotted, and when at rest on a wall the body is held almost horizontal. The larvæ are generally formed in natural collections of water where they float flat on the surface. If these are destroyed, therefore, the nurseries of the young *Anopheles* are destroyed also. Hence the necessity for draining swamps is at once apparent on scientific grounds. The good resulting from such a procedure has long been endorsed by practical experience.

The journal of The Sanitary Institute which has just been issued contains a long article by Prof. A. Celli of Rome on researches on The propagation of Malaria and the precautions to be adopted in Unhealthy Districts. After describing some of the opinions of other investigators he gives reasons for deciding that the dappled-winged gnat known as *Anopheles* is the propagating agent. He then describes the life history of the insect, and sets out a series of corollaries for the Hydraulic Engineer, for the Sanitary Engineer, and for the agriculturalist, in which are detailed the steps that can be taken to prevent the multiplication of the *Anopheles*, and other measures against the spread of the disease. The concluding portion of the paper gives instructions for the self-protection of abourers in malarious places. The paper is illustrated from some of Prof. Celli's photographs shewing methods of protecting houses and shelters.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Eleanor C. Barton has been appointed Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary. Miss Barton was on the staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital from October, 1892 to October, 1894, but gained a certificate of training at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, and she has also been specially trained in Maternity Nursing at the Clapham Maternity Hospital. Miss Barton was appointed Superintendent of the Nurses Home at the Chelsea Infirmary in 1896, and has by her kindness and charm of manner endeared herself to all those with whom she has come in contact. We learn that Miss Barton's candidature was not supported by the late Matron and her party, every effort having been made to obtain the post for another candidate. We also learn that Miss Barton's cultured personality, and the dignified manner in which she has performed her duties under circumstances of great difficulty, specially recommended her candidature to the Chelsea Board of Guardians. We heartily wish the Nursing School in connection with this important Infirmary a happier future.

Dublin Nurses' Club.

A lecture on the Rontgen rays was recently delivered to the members of the Nurses' Club, at their rooms, 3, St. Stephen's Green, by Dr. Haughton, Surgeon to Stevens's Hospital. The chair was taken by Miss Kelly, Matron of Stevens's Hospital. The lecturer having explained the nature and properties of the rays, said much more interesting than the theory of the system was a knowledge of its practical application to medicine and surgery. The rays had been of much service to both sciences in the diagnosis of cases formerly very difficult if not impossible to diagnose. The lecturer gave instances in which the rays had been of great value in surgery, dental surgery, and medicine, and illustrated his remarks by limelight views. The discoveries made by the use of the rays led in all these cases to most important results, both from the point of view of the operators and the patients. Dr. Haughton spoke in terms of high praise of the use of the Rontgen rays on the battlefield. Though at first the introduction of the system had been viewed with more or less disfavour in the Army Medical Service, it had now become most popular, and the rays had been used with great success in both the Sudanese and the present South African campaigns. The benefits conferred on the wounded were incalculable, and had prevented many painful operations which would have been otherwise necessary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)