

an absence at first of local lesions. There is here an infection of some clot in the uterine wall with streptococci, and this causes the rigors and raises the temperature and pulse, without at first giving much, if any, local indication. There is not the frank invasion of the patient's system along the lymphatic route, with its evident local peritonitic disturbance, but a passage of the mischief insidiously through a blood channel. Soon, however, the special pyæmic affections of joints, lung or brain come on, and render the nature of the case clear.

ANTIDOTE FOR SNAKE-POISON.

Captain R. H. Elliot, I.M.S., who has been carrying out a series of experiments with a view to discovering a proper antidote for snake-poison, recently delivered an instructive and interesting lecture on this subject, at Madras, says the *Indian Medical Review*. Snakes, he said, manufactured their poison by their salivary glands—the glands which lie alongside the edge of their teeth; and, but for the fortunate circumstance that all snakes are provided with a reservoir to secrete the poison, which is carried away down into their alimentary canal, every snake would be poisonous. Sea-snakes do not often bite, but if they did, it would be fatal. The vegetable preparations put forward by the natives of this country as antidotes are useless, as also is the injection of ammonia. The strychnine theory of Professor Muller has also been fully tried, and found to be a failure. The real antidote to snake-poison is antivenene, but unless it is fresh it is not satisfactory. The hope for the future lies in the serum of the snake—in separating from the snake itself the antidote to its own poison. In snake-poison itself, the lecturer added, there is not merely a lethal body, a body that kills, but it is more than possible that, side by side with it, or, at all events, separable from it by heat and chemical process, there is a remedy which would be compact, and which will be found to be very powerful.

TYPHOID CASES AMONG THE TROOPS.

The number of cases of typhoid fever among the troops in South Africa and the number of deaths were, in October, 568 cases, 98 deaths; in November, 1,213 cases, 207 deaths; and in December, 1,665 cases, 286 deaths. The total number of cases from the beginning of the war to December 31st last was 19,101, and the number of deaths 4,233. The number of officers and men invalidated home up to December 31st was 10,975.

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Margaret Haughton has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Bloomfield Retreat, Dublin. She received her training at the City of Dublin Hospital, and has held the position of Matron of Barrington's Hospital, Limerick.

MATRON.

Miss Jane Ord has been appointed Matron of the Tunbridge Wells Eye, Throat, and Ear Hospital. She received her training at Guy's Hospital, and holds the silver medal of this institution. She has worked on the private nursing staff of Guy's Hospital, and has also been attached to the Nurses' Co-operation. She has held the position of Ward Sister at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, and also at the institution of which she has now been appointed Matron.

Miss Iza Bell has been appointed Matron of the Shotts Fever Hospital, Lanarkshire. She received her general training at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and also holds a two years certificate of training in fever nursing from the Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow, and after gaining her certificate, worked in this institution as Staff and Charge Nurse for five years, so that she has had considerable experience in fever nursing. She has also had charge of wards at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

SISTER.

Miss Ellen Lanoa McAvoy has been appointed Sister at the Lewisham Infirmary. She received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Royal Red Cross.

It is announced that the King has conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Mme. de Ferrières, Superintendent of the French Hospital, Johannesburg, in recognition of her services in nursing sick and wounded soldiers in South Africa. This is the first Red Cross bestowed for service in the South African campaign. We hope soon to hear that Miss M. Eugénie Hibbard, Superintending Sister on the American Hospital Ship *Maine* has been similarly honoured.

His Majesty has also conferred this decoration upon Miss Marian Lambert, of the Church of England Mission; Sister Jessie Molyneux Ransome; Miss Lillie Emma Saville, M.D., London Mission; and Miss Abbie Goodrich Chapin, in recognition of their services at the International Hospital during the siege of the Legations at Peking.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)