

Mr. Samuel Lewis has left much of his immense wealth to charitable institutions, the bulk being reversions on the death of his wife, Mrs. Ada Lewis, whose name is to be commemorated by several of the legacies. In all, £1,004,750 will be given to the poor. Amongst the reversions vast sums are left to big hospitals, the London coming in for £20,000, and "Barts," "Guys," St. Thomas' Charing Cross, St. George's, Hospital for Consumption, Sussex County, Metropolitan, and University College, are to have £10,000 each. Mrs. Lewis is widely known to be a very charming and kind woman, so that it is to be hoped that it may be many a long day before these reversions fall due.

The following extract from a letter from the front has been sent to Messrs. Cosenza and Co. by the brother of the writer:—"Now that we are always on the move you can guess we have a pretty rough time as regards food—often we are on half rations. The best grub we get is Maggi's Soups. You ought to try some—it's awfully sustaining."

The serum used in Italy for all the inoculations against diphtheria which resulted in lockjaw, belonged to a batch of 300 tubes despatched from Milan about a month ago, and 230 of them have now been sent back.

"The theory put forward to explain the lockjaw," says the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, "is that tetanus microbes, which abound on the skin of horses and in stables, fell into the vessel used to catch the blood of horses from which the serum was made. The greatest precautions had been taken to prevent the presence of diphtheria bacilli in the receptacle, but it does not seem that the same precautions were used with regard to tetanus."

It is surmised at the Pasteur Institute that the tetanus complications arising out of the diphtheria serum are due to the serum having been taken from horses with dirty coats.

The germ of tetanus is present in horse manure, and for this reason cyclists are prone to attacks from the disease, a fall in the roadway resulting in a slight bruise or scratch opening the way for the germ to be introduced into the system. The report of the expert commission of inquiry which has been appointed to examine the infected serum is awaited with interest.

At a recent meeting of the Epidemiological Society, held at the Medical Rooms, Dr. L. Parkes and Dr. S. Rideal read papers on "A Suggested Method of Preventing Water-borne Enteric Fever among Armies in the Field." This is a burning question in relation to our soldiers now in South Africa, and it is to be hoped that some practical suggestions will be the result of the discussion. The daily list of deaths from enteric of those on active service is sad beyond measure.

Bubonic plague keeps popping up in various quarters of the globe. Bacteriological examination by the Local Government Board has proved that the suspicious cases at Hull on the steamer *Friary*, from Alexandria, were plague.

It is reported from San Francisco that bubonic plague has been discovered in the Chinese quarter of that city, and dispatches from Constantinople report the danger of the spread of this terrible disease.

Professional Review.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

"I honour him, who stands in calm reliance
Amid a Senate's frown, and shrug, and jeer;—
Who spins no smooth harangue for statesman's ear
Of that misnamed expediency; but he
Deems that expedient which is just and fair
Pronounces that most safe which ought to be;
And cries, 'Let man have right!'"

"The Sick and Wounded in South Africa," by Mr. Burdett-Coutts, published by Cassell and Co., London, price 1s. 6d., is a book which should be read by all who desire to study the question of the care of the sick and wounded in our wars. The book gains in force from the calmness and restraint which characterises it throughout. Fresh from scenes of suffering, the result of incompetence and lack of foresight, burning with the desire to right the wrong, Mr. Burdett-Coutts might well have been pardoned had some warmth of feeling characterised his story, but all this is severely repressed, the narrative is a record of simple facts, written not with the purpose of "piling on the agony," but of telling the British public the truth, and secondarily, no doubt, to vindicate the writer in the estimation of succeeding generations, when the heat of controversy is past, and a juster judgment can be brought to bear upon the question.

But the pity of it! That the question should ever have been allowed to become one of party politics at all! Oh for a return of the days.

"When none were for a party
When all were for the State."

If it has become an axiom with those in high places that everything done in every department for which the Party in power is responsible is perfect, and any effort to show that improvement is possible is considered unpatriotic, and wanting in loyalty to the Party concerned, we are in a parlous state indeed. We must allow our soldiers to die by hundreds, and thousands, rather than own that our arrangements for their care are defective. This charge of want of loyalty to Party was pushed to an extreme in the case of Mr. Burdett-Coutts when another Conservative candidate came forward to oppose him in Westminster at the recent General Election, solely on the ground of his action on the South African Hospitals question. The attempt to oust him on this ground was most discreditable, and so the electors of Westminster appeared to think, for they returned Mr. Burdett-Coutts by an overwhelming majority. The story told in his book is so important, and moreover so condensed, that it is impossible to do justice to it in the limits of a single review. We therefore propose to devote a series of articles to its discussion. In the meantime we take the opportunity of expressing our admiration for the course adopted by the member for Westminster, and rejoice that some one has had the courage to tell the truth as to the defects in the Army Medical Administration in this campaign, and to stick to it.

It could have been no small thing to him to draw down upon himself the hostility of the Party with which he is identified, to be assailed and misrepresented from motives of party prejudice, self-interest, ignorance, sycophancy, departmental obstinacy and self-sufficiency, to be treated with marked coldness by his own side of the House, and to be supported by those with whose political opinions he is not in agree-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)