

The doctor knows by experience that carbolic acid is an old, tried and valuable remedy in certain types of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and allied throat diseases. Yet many doctors, intelligent men too, are content to accept the hypothesis, undemonstrated and undemonstratable, that the cells of the horse elaborate and charge the blood with a mythical something called antitoxin, which neutralises the poison of diphtheria.

This invention of a morbid imagination is a relic of the superstitious inspirations of the middle ages before men so generally began to study natural law in its various manifestations and relations, to observe, analyse, and think independently of authorities. In the dawn of mind almost anything could be asserted; its claims bolstered up and sustained by authority. Beliefs were emotional and highly contagious.

That day has largely passed. Experience and logic have done their work. Antitoxin cannot expect longevity on such a rotten basis. Pedantry, commercialism, dogmatism, class interest (bacteriologists, microscopists, health boards, and notoriety seekers in general) will continue to make a fight for it, aided by the self-limited nature and varying type of diphtheria, together with the real efficiency of the carbolic acid in the serum; but truth is mighty, the scales will sooner or later drop from our eyes, and we shall see that *antitoxin* has never existed except in the imagination of its so-called discoverer."

TREATMENT OF SNAKE-BITES.

Babu Atul Chunder Banerjee, in charge of the hospital of the Baliyan tea gardens, writes to the *Times of Assam* of the successful treatment by him of a snake-bite under the following circumstances:—"A cooly woman, while working in the garden, was bitten by a poisonous snake which came out suddenly from the neighbouring jungle. Soon after she became insensible, and was brought to the garden hospital, a distance of a mile and-a-half being carried by other coolies on a *charpai*. I found her quite unconscious, and immediately injected 15 minims liquor strychnia hydrochlor over the heart. She soon recovered consciousness, and I made incisions at the bite on the leg, and burnt it with strong nitric acid. Finding that the patient was going to collapse, I again repeated the strychnia injection in the muscles of her left arm and followed it with a dose by the mouth. She quickly recovered.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Sibyl T. Biddulph Pinchard has been appointed Matron of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, London. Miss Pinchard has had twelve years' experience of Nursing, from 1889-91. She was trained and certificated at the East London Children's Hospital, Shadwell, and later obtained experience in adult nursing at Charing Cross Hospital, and was Sister at the Royal South Hants Hospital, from 1893-94. She was on the staff of Gordon House Home Hospital for a year, and a member of the Registered Nurses' Society for the same period, and was again attached to the staff of the Children's Hospital at Shadwell, from 1896-98. For the past three years Miss Pinchard has held the position of Matron to Princess Mary's Home at Bognor, so that she comes to her new, and, we hear, delightful post, with ripe experience in several branches of nursing. Miss Pinchard loves children and they love her, so all should be "happy ever after."

Miss Edith M. Proctor has been appointed Matron of the Rhondda Isolation Hospital. She was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and has also held the position of Sister at the Sanatorium, Cardiff.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Florence A. Cann has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Grove Fever Hospital. She was trained at the Westminster Hospital, has acted as temporary Matron at St. Mary's Infirmary, Islington, has also worked as night superintendent at University College Hospital, Sister at the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, and as Sister in charge of the theatre at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Miss Edith Sutcliffe has been appointed as Nurse Superintendent of the Wolverhampton District Nurses' Home. She was trained at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, has been Charge Nurse for nearly five years at the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, Night Sister for fifteen months at the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital, Stockton-on-Tees, Sister for one year at Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and for over two years Sister at Wolverhampton General Hospital.

CHARGE NURSE.

Miss Madeline Aspinwall has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Lancaster Sanatorium. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and has held the positions of Charge Nurse at the South-Eastern Fever Hospital, New Cross, and Sister at the City Hospital, Sheffield.

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