

with her because it is to my interest to be so, you may perhaps do so. Well, then, look at the map of Asia. To the north of my country is a great tract of Russian territory, to the south is India. Now Russia must be supplied with food, but how is it to be got to her? Not over ice-bound seas from the north, but by the ports of the warm southern seas, and then the only way is through my country, but England, except for greed, has no need of Afghanistan. Therefore, it is to my interest to be friends with England."

The late Ameer had a great objection to Dr. Hamilton's taking photographs. "I want," he said, "to make a religious woman of you. You recite in your second commandment, "Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or in the earth beneath," and yet you spend every spare moment taking and developing photographs. Why?"

Dr. Hamilton spoke of small-pox as the great scourge of Afghanistan, and her hope of its abatement from the vaccination which she introduced, and which is still carried on by Mrs. Daly, the nurse whom she left there, who was trained at the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, who is doing excellent work, and by Afghans whom the Ameer, in spite of her objections, insisting upon her instructing in the methods of vaccinating. She thought any conscientious objector who visited Afghanistan would become convinced of the benefits of vaccination. One advantage of an autocratic government was that when once the Ameer had made up his mind that vaccination was desirable, no one was allowed to have any conscientious objections.

The request for a testimonial from Miss Martin, the summarily discharged Matron at the Belper Isolation Hospital, aroused a warm discussion at the last meeting of the Committee. Ultimately a resolution proposed by Dr. Hooper, "That this committee give Miss Martin a Matron's testimonial, that is, the committee are satisfied she is an excellent nurse, thoroughly devoted to the welfare of the patients under her charge, and that in addition, she proved herself a competent Matron," was carried by six votes to four. The Chairman, Alderman Waite, J.P., thereupon resigned his position and left the chair.

Miss Martin has shown admirable courage and firmness throughout the attack made upon her, and we congratulate her upon the successful manner in which she has protected and rehabilitated her professional good name, both in a Court of Law and elsewhere.

Miss Norman, lady superintendent Royal Vic-

toria Hospital, has been ordered complete rest for six months, and will be leaving Netley at the end of the week.

The London County Council have made an order requiring the notification of chicken-pox in London for three months as a precautionary measure against the spread of small-pox, which is frequently in its early stages wrongly diagnosed as chicken-pox.

Bristol Guardians are divided on the question of extending the nurses' holidays from two to three weeks annually, some considering that the shorter term is the reason they are in need of nurses. No doubt this may be one reason of the shortage in nursing labour, and the increased term for rest and recreation should be arranged at once. But one absence from duty annually is not enough, and before nursing in country infirmaries can be considered satisfactory from an industrial standpoint, Guardians will have to recognise the fact that holidays must be granted half-yearly—five to six months' active nursing in sick wards is as much as any human being can do, without injury to health. Let this question of holidays be brought forward before the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board. One week's holiday in the winter and three in the summer should be a minimum allowance under Poor Law Administration.

An inquest was recently held at the Wyggeston Hospital, Leicester, on the body of a late inmate of the institution. Jane Linney, a nurse at the hospital, said that the patient had been an inmate for a considerable number of years; for the last year and a half he had kept his bed, and she had attended him. She used methylated spirit for his back to prevent bedsores, and on the last occasion placed the bottle of spirit on the shelf by the medicine bottle. Later in the morning she administered a tablespoonful of spirit to the patient, thinking the bottle containing it was the medicine bottle. The patient, after taking it, said he thought she had given him brandy. She then found out her mistake. Both bottles were the same in colour, but the liniment bottle was rather smaller. The bottles were properly labelled. She gave the patient milk and cooling drinks, and reported the occurrence to Canon Vaughan, Master of the Hospital. Dr. Blakesley afterwards saw the patient who died next day.

Dr. Blakesley said he had attended the deceased for years. When he saw him, after the occurrence reported, he was suffering from overstimulation. Death was due to this acting on an enfeebled circulation, followed by collapse caused by the dose of methylated spirits.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)