

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss E. M. Cummins has been appointed Matron of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. She was trained and worked as a Staff Nurse at the London Hospital, and has since held the position of Ward Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, two years, and Assistant Matron for three years, also Lecturer on Nursing for the Merchants Venturers' Technical College, Bristol, for one session. Miss Cummins has, therefore, qualified herself in an admirable manner for the position of Matron and Superintendent of a Training School for Nurses.

Miss Annie A. Mossop has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Birmingham Homoeopathic Hospital. She was trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and has also held the positions of Sister, Home Sister, Night Superintendent, and acted as Housekeeper, in the same institution.

Miss A. H. Wise has been appointed Matron of the Craig House Department for private patients of the Royal Asylum, Edinburgh. She was trained at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and at the Perth Royal Infirmary, and has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Perth District Asylum, Matron of Farnham House, Dublin, and Matron of the Male Department at the Stirling District Asylum.

Miss Mary E. May has been appointed Matron of the Anglo-American Hospital Cairo. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is a member of its Nurses' League, as well as of the Matrons' Council. She has held the positions of Matron of the Grosvenor Hospital, Westminster, and of the Bridgwater Infirmary.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Miss Rosa Templeman has been appointed Superintendent Nurse at the Braintree Union Infirmary. She was trained at the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary, and has held the position of Charge Nurse, and also that of Charge Midwife, at the Lambeth Infirmary.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The undermentioned ladies are gazetted to appointments in the above Service:—

Matron: Miss Mary Louisa Rannie.

Staff Nurses: Miss Ethel Mary Denne, provisionally; Miss Emily Henrietta Hay, provisionally; Miss Dorothea Matilda Taylor, provisionally.

Staff Nurse Miss Sybil Rosalie Hughes-Hallett resigns her appointment.

Poisons.

By Miss E. L. B. FORSTER,
Analyst to the Morgan Crucible Co.

TABLE No. 2.

ORGANIC.

Tincture of Cantharides, and all Vesicating Liquid Preparations of.

Tincture of cantharides is prepared by macerating the beetle (which has previously been reduced to a fine powder) in alcohol of 90 per cent. for seven days in a closed vessel, frequently agitating. It is then strained and filtered if necessary. The dose is 5 to 15 minims, or, if it is to be frequently repeated, 2 to 5 minims.

Liquor epispasticus (blistering liquid) is in the present day the most important preparation. Cantharides in powder is placed in acetic ether and left for twenty-four hours, when more acetic ether is added. Then it is slowly passed through a percolator and made up to the required amount. To every 10 oz. of the cantharides 1 pint of solution must be made. There is no dose for this; it is only for external use. It has largely superseded the old-fashioned blister, being a much better preparation, answering the same purpose without fear of unpleasantly dragging the skin.

The blister is officially called the cantharides plaster. It contains, besides the active principle, beeswax, resin, lard, and soap plaster. There is the warming plaster, emplastrum calefaciens. There is an ointment made by bruising and crushing the beetle, adding it to melted lard, and digesting it at a temperature of about 120° Fahr. for twelve hours, straining through calico, and stirring until cold. There is a vinegar—acetum of cantharides. The beetle is bruised and crushed, a mixture is made of glacial acetic acid and water, to which it is added and macerated in it for twenty-four hours; it is then transferred to a percolator. When the liquid has passed through, it is made up to the desired strength. To every 2 oz. of beetle used, a pint of vinegar must be made. The most important preparations are the blister, the blistering liquid, and the tincture.

The chief use of cantharides is as a vesicant and irritant. The tincture enters frequently into hair liniment, as does cantharides, the active principle of the beetle.

It is prescribed internally as a diuretic, given in disorders of the bladder and other diseases.

In cases of poisoning from the drug, emetics should be given, the stomach-pump used, milk and eggs given, also barley-water, gruel and stimulants. If there is much pain, sulphate of morphine may be hypodermically administered.

Nux Vomica and its Preparations.

Strychnos nux vomica (natural order Loganiaceæ) is found growing in India, Burma, China, and the East Indian Islands. The fruit is about the size

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