

## Appointments.

### MATRON.

Miss Jessie F. Ballantyne has been appointed Matron of the Fulham Infirmary, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith. She was trained for three years at Guy's Hospital, and subsequently in the course of four and a-half years held successively the appointments of Sister, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron at the Lewisham Infirmary. For the last fifteen months Miss Ballantyne has been Matron of the Incorporation Infirmary, Shirley Warren, Southampton. She is a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

### ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Alice Hilson has been appointed Assistant Matron to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has also been Sister at Chalmers' Hospital, Edinburgh, and Matron of the Nursing Home for Women, George Square, Edinburgh. Miss Hilson is a member of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, and for three years has been employed both in South Africa and at the Curragh.

### HOME SISTER.

Miss Emily Garside has been appointed Home Sister and Night Sister at the General Hospital, Birmingham. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and subsequently held the positions of Sister at the Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, Matron *pro tem.* at the Home and Hospital, Newport, and Night Superintendent at the Children's Infirmary, Liverpool.

### SISTERS.

Miss Gertrude Heald has been appointed Sister at the National Hospital for Consumption, Newcastle, co. Wicklow. She was trained at the Bradford Infirmary, and has held the position of Sister at St. Mary's (Islington) Infirmary and at the Woolwich Infirmary.

Miss Esther J. Pearce has been appointed Sister at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. She was trained at the Westminster Hospital, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Ilkeston Accident Hospital and at the Hospital, Saffron Walden. She also worked for two years as a Queen's Nurse. She holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

### NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Margaret P. Love has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. She was trained in general nursing at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and in maternity nursing and midwifery at the Rotunda Hospital, so that she is well qualified for the position.

## Poisons.

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

### TABLE No. 2.

#### ORGANIC.

#### *Morphine, and all Preparations of.*

Morphine is an alkaloid obtained from opium, which is a juice extracted from *Papaver somniferum*. It is grown chiefly in Asia Minor, Egypt and China. It is the presence of morphine, its active principle, that makes opium such a valuable medicine. Good opium should yield about 10 per cent. of the alkaloid. Its formula is  $C_{17}H_{19}NO_3 + H_2O$ .

To extract it from the opium, the drug must be cut up in small pieces, left to stand in water for several hours, and then chloride of calcium added. Hydrochloride of morphine is formed, which is soluble, and meconate of calcium, which is insoluble. Evaporate until, on cooling, it forms a solid mass. The mass is pressed in calico, then dissolved in boiling water. This process is repeated several times. On the addition of ammonia the alkaloid in a perfectly pure state is precipitated out. There are three salts of morphine official—the hydrochloride, made by neutralising morphine with hydrochloric acid and crystallising; acetate of morphine, made by adding ammonia to the hydrochloride to precipitate the alkaloid, then neutralising it with acetic acid and crystallising; tartrate of morphine, made by combining morphine and tartaric acid in molecular proportions. The pure alkaloid is not official, but the three salts are. There is a sulphate, made by the action of sulphuric acid on the alkaloid, but it is not now recognised in the British Pharmacopœia. The hydrochloride of morphine is soluble one part in twenty-four parts of water; very soluble in boiling water, one part in fifty of alcohol. It is pure white, in very minute crystals. The dose is  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a grain.

The acetate is soluble one in two and a-half parts of water, in one hundred parts of alcohol. It is a white substance in crystals, sometimes seen in an amorphous condition. Dose  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a grain. The tartrate is soluble one in eleven parts of water, almost insoluble in alcohol. It is also a white powder in fine crystals. The dose  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a grain.

Morphine is given in medicine as an hypnotic, an anodyne, and a diaphoretic. It is chiefly known on account of its great power to produce sleep, consequently frequently it is given in hypodermic injections and in sleeping draughts. It is also largely prescribed for the relief of pain. But it has various other actions as well, and is given in cough mixtures and diarrhoea medicines. There are many preparations official. There is a solution of each salt, made by dissolving it in the corresponding acid, alcohol and water, except in the tartrate, when no acid is present. The dose

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