

inert, others extremely fatal even in small doses. The symptoms of ptomaine poisoning also vary in kind and degree. The following are a few of the principal ptomaines of known composition:—*Neurine*, got from fish, flesh, &c, and is of a very poisonous nature; *tyrotoxin* is produced in cheese and milk products; *sepsine* has been found lately in putrid beer; *muscarine*, a very violent poison, associated with decaying fish and also found in the poisonous mushroom, thus giving a link between the so-called animal alkaloids and the vegetable alkaloids; *try-methylanine* from herring brine; *cruso creatinine* from fresh meat; and some others besides.

“Some ptomaines cause gastro-intestinal disorders, others act directly upon the heart, some directly on the nervous system, and others again upon particular centres. The usual symptoms of such poisoning are severe retching, abdominal pain, frequent and offensive diarrhoea, prostration, disturbed circulation and often delirium. Thirst is usually intense, and in a few cases the temperature is elevated, but in most is subnormal. There is a tendency to collapse, and the loss of the power of contracting the muscles, even under electrical stimulus, is a characteristic symptom in poisoning by muscarine. There is usually a period of incubation varying from two to six hours, and with the stage and degree of putrid fermentation in the given article of food.

“Bacillary food-poisoning is a disease of a specific character, due to food conveying a true infection or to the poisons developed in and from the food by bacterial agencies. The following is a summary of causes of meat poisoning: (1) Those caused by the introduction of a harmful microbe into the body; (2) those caused by the introduction into the body of a poison which has already been manufactured in the meat by such microbe; and (3) those in which both microbes and its already manufactured poison have been together concerned in the illness. The distinction between the three classes is chiefly one of duration of the incubation period, which is long, as a rule, in the first class, short in the second, and variable in the third. Toxicity depends on two factors—on the bacterium itself, and on the chemical product of its activity. In the latter the symptoms appear soon after the food is eaten, and in the former there is necessarily a period of growth and production of the toxic substance.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Susie Dunham has been appointed Matron at the Cottage Hospital, Epsom. She was trained at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, where she held the position of Staff Nurse for seven years, and subsequently held the position of Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Bexley.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Florence A. Foyster has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum. She was trained at the Whitechapel Infirmary, and holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. After obtaining her certificate she held the post of Night Superintendent at the Whitechapel Infirmary for several years.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Frances Pritchard has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield. She was trained at the Fir Vale Infirmary, Sheffield, where she has also held the position of Charge Nurse. She has also had experience of private nursing, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the South-Eastern Hospital, London.

SISTERS.

Miss Florence Therburn has been appointed Sister at the General Infirmary, Burton-on-Trent. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby.

Miss Mary Savage has been appointed Sister at the General Infirmary, Burton-on-Trent. She was trained at the Bolton Infirmary, and has had experience of private nursing. She has also held an appointment at the Park Hospital, Hither Green.

Miss Amy McLean has been appointed Sister of the out-patient department at the Sheffield Royal Hospital. Miss McLean was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and has held the position of Sister, for the last two years, of the Women's Medical Ward at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

CHARGE NURSES.

Miss Katherine Marshall has been elected Charge Nurse at the Atcham Union Workhouse Infirmary, near Shrewsbury. She was trained at the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, and has held various positions under the Poor Law, and has had experience of private nursing at the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution.

Miss L. Bell has been appointed Charge Nurse of the York Corporation Fever Hospital. She was trained at the City Hospital, Bradford, and has since held the positions of Assistant Nurse at the City Hospital, Leeds, and Charge Nurse at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

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