

Practical Points.

A Useful Hint. During a long and severe illness pay as much attention to the cleanliness of the patient's teeth and oral cavity generally as to that of the rest of the body.

Malarial Fever Reportable. Dr. Darlington, Commissioner of Health of New York City, has requested physicians to report all cases of malarial fever to the department. In the same communication the announcement is made that "it is now a part of the routine work of the Department of Health to make free microscopical examination of the blood of patients suffering from malaria, and any physician can have such an investigation made on request."

Lysol Poisoning. Few remedies, says the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, have achieved such rapid popularity as lysol, the reason being that it has been considered an efficient antiseptic, and almost non-toxic. Numerous reports have appeared of late of poisoning, which shows that it is not nearly as innocent as has been supposed. In four cases lysol was taken with suicidal intent. There was marked local effect upon the mucous membrane of the mouth and throat; in two cases there was deep coma. The treatment employed was to wash out the stomach and administer large doses of camphor.

New Method of Administering Oils. Dr. H. Boissel, in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire des Sciences Médicales*, remarks that the facility with which castor oil can be given in frothing beer is well known to all practitioners. It is, however, not always easy or advisable to give beer, therefore he has devised a frothing mixture which serves the same purpose. It is in the form of a powder, composed of gum arabic, liquorice, and lactose, flavoured with vanilla. A pinch of this powder, shaken with a little water, produces a very persistent froth, in which any oily substance as cod-liver oil, castor oil, iodised or phosphorated oil can be given, as well as medicines lighter than the mixture, such as the salicylate of menthol, essence of santal, &c., without the slightest unpleasant taste.

The Value of Sugar. It is a well-known fact that soldiers on campaign, travellers, and other persons who are obliged to bear great and prolonged fatigue, cannot carry on their work without sugar, or some such sugary compound as jam or honey. In a recent issue of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, M. Dastre has given his views upon this subject. He shows that instead of being a mere relish, which makes other foods more palatable, sugar performs an important function in making good the losses caused by muscular exertion and in maintaining health and vigour in the body. He endeavours to prove that the processes of life in the vertebrates must be carried on in a sugary solution of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1,000, and he takes the view that glucose, which is supplied to the body by means of sugar, is the source of muscular energy.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Miss Ethel McCaul and Miss Elaine St. Aubyn, who went out last March to Japan to inspect and report upon the Japanese military nursing methods both in the field and at the base hospitals, are, it is announced, returning to England in the P. and O. steamship *Sardinia*, which is due at Tilbury on September 5th. During the two months they were in Japan they were allowed by special permission of the Japanese Government to go up in a hospital ship to Feng-hwan-chenn, where under Japanese escort they saw the work of the Red Cross Society in the field. They also visited Matsuyama, where the Russian prisoners were being detained. Every facility for seeing everything appertaining to their commission was granted to them by the Japanese authorities, and it is understood that their experiences will, on their return to London, be embodied in a special report to be made to the Queen and the military authorities.

At a garden party held recently under the auspices of the Nurses' Total Abstinence League, by the invitation of Alderman Bethell, J.P., at his residence, Romford, Miss E. Docwra said how important it was that on all questions which affected health nurses should be up-to-date, and in the front of any movement which affected the good of the community. The medical profession told them that the total abstainer had more immunity from disease, had a shorter period of illness, a longer life, and a better prospect of health throughout life than the moderate drinker. With regard to legislation, they were under a cloud; but so far as the medical profession was concerned—and it was closely linked with the nurses—there was much to be thankful for. She went on to speak of the Nurses' Total Abstinence League, which was started in 1897. The influence of a total abstaining nurse was an immense power for good. After alluding to the good total abstinence was to the nurses themselves in the stress and strain of their lives, when they had to be ready for any emergency, she asked them to join the League, and said that doing so they would enter on a path that they would rejoice about in years to come. After the action of the Government in passing the recent reactionary measure, they felt their work was to

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