

Annotations.

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

As will be seen from a letter in our correspondence columns, Mr. E. G. Bawden, of the Stock Exchange, has given a large sum of money to be applied to charitable purposes, and more especially to the advancement of knowledge in aid of human suffering. It is surely a wise plan on the part of a rich man to distribute some of his surplus wealth during his lifetime, and the observation of the benefit arising from its application must give the donor keen pleasure. We are glad to note that in the distribution of the gift women's societies have not been overlooked. When will some generous donor remember the benefit not only to nurses, but to the community, which would accrue from the endowment of nursing education?

THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

Ever since the Midwives' Act came into force the difficulty of providing for the payment of medical practitioners, who, under the Act must be called in under certain conditions, has been apparent, and we are glad to learn that the London County Council will promote legislation in the next Session of Parliament to provide that the Council shall be authorised to pay the fee of a medical practitioner called, at the instance of a midwife, to a case of emergency.

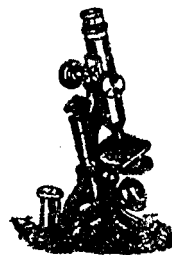
CHOLERA IN EUROPE.

In view of the presence of Asiatic cholera at Hamburg the Local Government Board has issued a circular to certain port sanitary authorities in which it is stated:—"Ports of the Baltic and perhaps some of those of the North Sea must be looked upon as threatened with cholera, and the authorities of British ports trading with the Baltic and the North Sea ports should therefore be on their guard against the importation of the disease into their districts by means of vessels coming from such ports."

The authorities both in Germany and in this country are taking every precaution and there is no special cause for alarm. The Port Sanitary Authority of London considers that the precautions taken will enable any cholera-infected person or material to be detected before landing on these shores. Should the disease, however, effect an entry, we have no doubt that the nurses of this country will, as they have ever done, rise to the emergency.

Medical Matters.

SPOTTED FEVER.



Dr. D. Achard, in the *Revue Scientifique*, has recorded many details of interest in regard to Spotted Fever. He states it is almost exactly a century since the nature of the disease was first discussed. From February to April in 1805 it raged in Geneva and its neighbourhood, and the doctors of the day gave to it the name of ataxic cerebral fever. The name meningitis had been invented some two years before by Herpin, that disease being discovered by him in the course of his investigations on wounds of the skull observed in the Army of the Rhine. Tubercular meningitis was not distinguished until twenty-four years later. But though the historical period of spotted fever is referred to the beginning of the nineteenth century, it seems to have existed long before both in Europe and in America. Descriptions of a disease which was noted even before the eighteenth century appear to refer to it, and the same may be said of epidemics observed in North America in 1749 and 1792. The first authenticated case in America followed immediately on the heels of the outbreak at Geneva, in 1806. From that time forth epidemics have been continuous. It was noted during the retreat of the French Army from Moscow. In 1837 it raged over the South of France, and in four years it reached the capital. Prisons, garrisons, and the civil population suffered alike, and the mortality in the case of children was very striking. It spread to Denmark, Spain, England, and Germany. The garrisons at Strasburg and Bordeaux suffered severely in 1866-7. From 1842 to 1850 it attacked with great virulence the negroes and planters of New Orleans. Its effects were severely felt by the Confederate troops during the War of Secession. In 1887 it spread through twenty-seven States of the Union. Since then sporadic outbreaks have occurred from time to time—in France seven years ago, and at the present moment its progress is arousing consternation both in America and in Germany.

The present epidemic in Germany made its appearance in Silesia in November, 1904. By April, 1905, the cases numbered more than 1,000, 582 of which proved fatal. In Austrian Silesia and Galicia there were

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