

The Irish Matrons' Association.

The first meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association for the winter session was held on Saturday last, at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. It was decided to arrange for the examination of the "Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses" to be again held in Dublin, probably in February, 1907. Classes to prepare pupils have already commenced, and it is hoped that many candidates will present themselves for examination. All particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Irish Matrons' Association, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

This Association was founded in 1904 to enable Matrons to meet regularly, if they wished, to consider matters of professional interest, and many interesting discussions have been held. Nine ordinary meetings are summoned in the year, and special meetings as occasion arises.

Irish Nurses' Association.

The first of a series of lectures which have been arranged for the winter months in connection with the Irish Nurses' Association, was given in the rooms of the Association, 86, Lower Leeson Street, on Friday evening, 5th inst., by Mr. W. T. De C. Wheeler, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., visiting surgeon to Mercer's Hospital. Subject: "The functions of the brain and spinal cord," his treatment of the subject which was most interesting, lucid, and instructive, appealed greatly to his audience, whose keen appreciation was evidenced by the repeated acclamation with which they passed the hearty vote of thanks proposed by Sister Wright, seconded by Sister Maconchie, and conveyed to the lecturer by Mrs. Kildare-Tracey, Vice-President of the Association, who presided. The next lecture will be given on November 7th by Mr. Richard White. Subject: "With a camera through Russia," illustrated by lantern slides.

An Interesting Presentation.

Miss L. M. Tippetts, the late Assistant Matron at Guy's, with Miss Newton and Miss Morrah, who have held the position of Sister, and Miss Smith, who has been Staff Nurse in the Institution, have left England to take up work in the Government Hospital, Lahore, Miss Tippetts as Matron, and the other ladies as Sisters. Before leaving, Miss Tippetts was presented with a handsome dressing bag by the nursing and administrative staff, while similar presents were made to the Sisters by those associated with their work in the wards.

Practical Points.

Milk Sterilisation.

The *Matin* announces that Professor Behring has discovered a new method of sterilising milk, without boiling it or destroying any of its essential principles.

The method is based on the powerful qualities of German perhydrol, simply oxygenated. One gramme per litre of this substance is sufficient to destroy all noxious germs. The milk thus sterilised can be kept a long time and is not injured by travelling, but it cannot be drunk until it has been gently warmed and a drop of a catalytic substance added, extracted from the milk itself. Dr. Behring sent two bottles of this sterilised milk to the central laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture in Berlin, where it was found that the milk was perfectly pure.

The *Matin* adds that Dr. Behring proved that light had a very harmful effect on the milk, whether sterilised hot or cold, and he recommends that it should be kept in a dark place or in red or green bottles.

Ice-Bags and When to Use Them.

The value of ice-bags, especially in acute inflammations due to bacterial invasion, is emphasised in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. To be efficient, there should be constant drainage from the bag, in order to keep the temperature that of melting ice, and he describes a drainage ice-bag of his own invention specially devised for pneumonia cases. Among the diseases in which "ice-bags are of great importance as an auxiliary remedy the following may be mentioned: Acute meningitis, acute mastoid disease, acute tonsillitis, lobar pneumonia (with marked success), acute pleurisy, acute endocarditis and myocarditis, acute hepatitis, acute gastritis, acute rheumatic arthritis and acute synovitis, acute enterocolitis, acute peritonitis and acute pelvic diseases, acute cystitis, acute appendicitis (of great benefit), hemoptysis, hematuria, typhoid fever (to the head and abdomen), scarlet fever (to head), erysipelas (to region involved), neuralgia and headache."

Dr. Marie in the *Revue de Medicine* finds that the special causes for the frequency of tuberculosis in asylums for the insane are:

1. Overcrowding with insufficiency of air by day as well as by night.
 2. Insufficient exercise in the open air.
 3. Defective heating and ventilation.
 4. Uncleanly habits and dirty clothing.
 5. Faults in the alimentary regimen.
- The means which he advises for prevention are:
1. An early diagnosis of the approach of the disease.
 2. Isolation of all patients suffering with phthisis.
 3. The construction for the future of smaller asylums for the insane.
 4. Proper measures to prevent crowding.
 5. Increase in the air provision by day and night.
 6. Diminution in the number of beds in the dormitories.
 7. More complete and more

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