

Miss Ramsden and the Rotunda members of the I.N.A. *Saturday, June 29th*, Convalescent Home, Stillorgan, on invitation of Miss Agnew. *Tuesday, July 9th*, Howth Summit (Tea 8d. each). *Wednesday, July 24th*, Portrane Hospital, Donobate, on invitation of Miss Hughes.

Practical Points.

City Electric Ambulances.

Alderman Sir Alfred Newton last week inaugurated the City Electric Ambulance Service, the ceremony taking place in a temporary shed in King Edward's St., E.C., on ground belonging to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Members of the Corporation, many of the medical staff of the Hospital, the Chief Commissioner of the Police, and others were present at the opening ceremony. About two thousand accidents take place in the City every year, and an efficient ambulance service has long been an urgent necessity. Electric traction was selected as the best method as being noiseless and smooth running. There are to be 52 call stations in the City under the control of the police. The wagon is fitted with two canvas stretchers, one above the other, which slide in and out on runners, the top one being supported on an ingeniously hinged bracket which permits of its being lowered to a convenient level for removal. On the other side of the car is a long locker seat for the attendant, which could, if necessary, accommodate a third patient. A lavish provision of first aid requisites is made, including splints of all kinds, with spare paddings, dressings of gauze, lint, and wool, each done up separately in a hermetically sealed package, bandages of different materials, and some simple drugs and instruments. The car runs smoothly and is hung on comfortable springs; it has ground glass windows and efficient ventilators, and its outside is enamelled white and blazoned with the City arms and the ambulance cross. A constable with "first-aid" training accompanies the chauffeur and returns inside the car with the patient. The *Lancet* reports that the first accident attended on May 13th was in Queen Victoria Street, and the car reached it, returned to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and was in its garage again within 20 minutes.

Nurses Agree.

Some doctors denounce the drinking of tea; some defend it. Among the latter is Dr. N. E. Yorke-Davies, who, in a paper on "Beverages and Health" in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, makes this statement: First and foremost, as the most important and the most beneficial of all beverages, naturally comes tea. This seems to fill some want in the system that no other beverage can satisfy. The active principle of tea, which is known as theine, is a powerful stimulant to the nervous system, but, unlike alcohol, it does no harm; indeed, it is a solace and comfort to

millions, and every succeeding year tea grows in popularity and favour. I am a strong advocate of tea as a beverage. If inordinate consumption of tea does harm, it is simply, Dr. Yorke-Davies asserts, because it is not properly made.

The Use of Ammonia in Counteracting the Fumes of Formaldehyde.

In an article in the *New York Medical Journal*, Dr. E. V. Wilcox advocates the use of ammonia to neutralise the fumes of formaldehyde when used for purposes of fumigation. In his experiment the sick room, which had been occupied by a scarlet fever patient, contained fifteen hundred cubic feet of space. Two quarts of methyl alcohol were consumed in a formaldehyde generator and three pounds of commercial formaldehyde were exposed on sheets. As soon as the room had been ventilated sufficiently to make it possible to work in it, three pints of ammonia were sprinkled over the rugs and bedding and the room was closed again. The fumes of formaldehyde were completely destroyed in half an hour, except when it had been spilled on the floor and left an incrustation. The application of ammonia to these spots caused the odour to disappear at once.

Vinegar as a Hæmostatic in Gynæcology.

Dr. Gilly (*Gazette de gynécologie*) reminds obstetricians that in every cottage there is a valuable hæmostatic which can be utilised in an emergency. A pint of vinegar, a tablespoonful of table salt, and a couple of clean handkerchiefs, are always at hand. In a profuse hæmorrhage following a miscarriage after labour, the patient is made to drink half a glassful of pure vinegar, and the vagina is tamponed with the handkerchief moistened with the vinegar and salt. This is done with the patient in the obstetrical position lying across the bed with her head low, the thighs and legs strongly flexed, and the hips at the edge of the bed. The vagina is cleared of clots before introducing the tampon. The bleeding stops immediately, but the patient is kept for a time in this position until reaction takes place, which is hastened by an enema of a quart of normal salt solution. The simultaneous internal administration of vinegar by the mouth, he regards as an important aid to the local hæmostatic.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Transfers and Appointments.—Miss Winifred Higgins, to Barry, S. Wales; Miss Margaret Howells, to Grimsby; Miss Gertrude Lawton, to Pontypridd; Miss Annie March, to Cumberland Nursing Association, as County Superintendent; Miss Jessica May, to Windsor; Miss J. E. Mundy, to Windsor (temp.); Miss Sarah Repton, to Headless Cross.

The following Association has been affiliated to the Institute: Heckmondwike Nursing Association, Yorks.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)