

Will the Local Government Board, deaf hitherto to the voice of the living, listen to the voice of the dead? If not, not only will it be doing grievous wrong, but the shortage of nurses in the smaller infirmaries will not only continue but increase. The relative positions of the Master and Superintendent Nurse in workhouse infirmaries, as at present defined, must be altered, and that without delay.

We hope the Infirmary Matrons Association, in conjunction with the Association of Superintendent Nurses, will move in this matter.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

#### WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF ANTI-TYPHOID VACCINATION AND ITS PREVENTIVE INFLUENCE?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Dorothy W. Maton, Prince's Hotel, Bournemouth.

#### PRIZE PAPER.

This kind of vaccination is the injection of the anti-typhoid "vaccine" into the body, and was first carried out successfully by Professor Almroth Wright, both during and since the South African War.

*Obtaining the serum.*—The serum, or "vaccine," is obtained as follows. The typhoid bacilli are put into broth, in which they thrive and multiply and in due course produce a poison or "toxin." The germs are now heated until they are all dead, and the toxin obtained is injected into a lower animal, such as a horse, in small doses at first, which are gradually increased until the horse shows no symptoms, and is acclimatised to the poison. Now some of the horse's blood is drawn off into a sterilized vessel and allowed to coagulate, when the "serum" or fluid part of the blood is allowed to run off.

*Injecting the serum.*—The seat of injection is thoroughly washed with an antiseptic soap (such as "Sterilla"), and the "vaccine" is injected deeply under the skin by a special sterilized syringe, in either the flank, abdomen or shoulder. The injection is followed by slight constitutional disturbance, such as a rash or pains in the joints, but these quickly pass off, and need give no alarm.

*Preventive influence of the serum.*—The immunity from typhoid fever after the vaccination is of two years' duration, and as the patient will most probably be out of the infection area by that time, it will not be necessary for him to be re-vaccinated, unless of course he is liable

to re-infection. In order to help the "vaccine" to do its preventive work, steps should be taken as far as possible to prevent any sources of infection as flies, dust, or bacilli carriers, and during an epidemic all drinking water and milk should be boiled.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

Miss Dora Vine, Miss C. F. Martin, Miss G. Toller, Miss K. Yeats, and Miss A. Long.

Miss Vine writes:—The horses employed at a Vaccine Centre are most carefully looked after, and must all be in a perfect state of health. Into these carefully selected horses the poison produced by the germs of typhoid are gently inoculated from time to time in gradual doses. This process takes several months, and is carried out with the utmost care, asepsis, and humanity. At the end of the treatment the horse is immune to typhoid. This means that the horse now possesses a certain element in its blood that has inherent antipathy to typhoid bacilli. . . . It is to be hoped that those of us who can make the value of this treatment known will do so. Very many middle-class recruits have a curious dislike and dread of anything in the way of vaccination. Trained nurses can do a splendid work as pioneers in placing in simple language the facts before the public, especially making the women see what anti-typhoid inoculation can do for their dear ones.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Mention four classes of wounds, and how they may be caused.

### THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Valedictory Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League, to wish God-speed to twenty-two members who sail for the Mission Field this year, will be held as usual at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Wednesday, September 30th, opening at 9.30 a.m. We regret the programme reached us too late for the insertion as a whole, but arrangements have been made for a most inspiring day. The morning session will open with the National Anthem and Prayer for doctors, nurses, and troops, and the Rev. M. H. Richmond will give an address on "Peace." There will also be an address on "The War and Missions." A conversazione will be held in the afternoon, which will afford an opportunity for meeting sailing members, nurses from the mission field, and other missionaries.

An interesting list of subjects and speakers has been arranged for the evening. There will be the usual hospitality.

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