

MEDICAL MATTERS.

TETANUS AFTER "TRENCH FOOT."

Sir David Bruce called attention in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* to the occurrence of tetanus after trench foot. Fifteen cases had been recorded within a few weeks, and in eight of these, of which details were obtained, the disease was severe; six of the patients died, two cases after only one day's illness, three after two days' illness, and one after five days. This, as he said, was a return to the picture of tetanus before prophylactic injections were in use, and he urged any medical officer who might be in charge of a case of trench foot to give a prophylactic injection of antitetanic serum, and to repeat it at intervals of seven days until the wounds were clean. This advice, says the B.M.J., is reinforced by a communication made to the French Academy of Sciences by Drs. A. Lumière and A. Astier. They stated that out of ninety cases of tetanus received in the Lyons hospitals since the beginning of the war in five the disease followed frostbite of the feet. This is a ratio of 5.55 per cent., truly a very large proportion. While admitting that the tetanus bacillus may display a preference for the foul ulcers caused by severe frostbite, they agree that the more reasonable explanation is that the usual prophylactic injection of antitetanic serum was not given.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The text of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which was introduced by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on Monday, February 19th, is now published. Substantial penalties are provided in the case of persons suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form who act in a way rendering them liable to convey it to others. The term disorderly house is to include premises "used for the purposes of habitual prostitution," and the penalty on a first conviction is a fine of £100 or three months, £250 or six months on a second conviction, £500 or twelve months on a third. Sir George Cave said that the present penalties for keeping such houses were of no use at all as a deterrent, having regard to the profits made in this horrible trade. Both the publisher and distributor of indecent pictures or advertisements are to be liable to a fine of £100, or six months' imprisonment; instead of 40s. fine and one month, and £5 fine and three months.

The Bill was read a second time.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

Every time His Majesty holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace the Nursing Profession is honoured by the King decorating some of its members with the Royal Red Cross, and on Wednesday, 14th inst., and Saturday last the following ladies attended and received this mark of favour:—

FIRST CLASS.—Sister Jean Murray, Territorial Force Nursing Service, attached Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

SECOND CLASS.—Matron Christine MacLeod, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

FIRST CLASS.—Matron Annie Nunn, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

SECOND CLASS.—Matron Maud Brasier, British Red Cross Society; and Sister Nora Dalrymple, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

On both occasions Queen Alexandra received at Marlborough House the Matrons and Nurses of the Military Nursing Services subsequent to the Investiture, and, as she has previously done, presented them with a signed photograph of herself and a copy of "The Way of the Red Cross."

"R.R.C.'s" are greatly appreciated by the fellow-workers of the ladies decorated.

Miss Lilian Dunbabin, whose home is at Liverpool and who is Sister-in-Charge of the Hill Military Hospital, Lower Bourne, was upon her return from London entertained at luncheon by Major Gore Browne and Miss Gore Browne, and after a visit to the theatre, arrived back at The Hill, where a "guard of honour" awaited her, consisting of her patients, who formed a "triumphal arch" of crutches and gave her a rousing reception.

The Staff of Lees Court Military Hospital, Faversham, have marked the occasion by presenting Sister-in-Charge Daisy Stevens with a pair of silver-backed hair brushes.

The colleagues of Sister Isabella Dickson, attached to the 1st Birmingham War Hospital, are greatly pleased that she has received just recognition for services rendered.

Sister Dickson was at Osborne Naval College previously, and on the outbreak of the present war volunteered for service. She was sent to France, and afterwards volunteered for service in Serbia, where nurses were urgently required to deal with a typhus epidemic. For her excellent services in the stricken country she was given the Serbian Order of Charity by King Peter. Miss Dickson was trained at the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh.

The bestowal of the R.R.C. on Miss M. Flynn, Matron of the Military Hospital, Victoria Barracks, Belfast, has caused great satisfaction. Miss Flynn

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