

limited, these elections will be much less difficult than for candidates on the General Part of the Register.

Let us all do our duty to the best of our ability in recording our professional franchise. We have worked for this vote for a quarter of a century. Now let us use it for the benefit of the profession and the public.

### THE "ROSS" LAWN TENNIS CHALLENGE CUP.

An exciting contest took place on the ground of the Park Hospital, Hither Green, on the afternoon of Saturday, September 9th, when the Final was played for the "Ross" Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup.

#### THE NORTH WESTERN HOSPITAL v. NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL.

This is only the second year of the Cup's existence, and the honour had so far belonged to the North Western Hospital, and during the first part of the contest it looked as though it would retain the coveted possession for another year, the first event resulting in 3 sets to the North Western advantage.

The players were, North Western: Staff Nurses Barnett and Birch. North Eastern: Staff Nurses Collier and Love.

In the last event, however, the North Eastern turned the tables, and amid great excitement, and after some close scoring, wrested the Cup from their rivals. The players in this event were: North Western, Staff Nurses Bloomfield and Lord. North Eastern, Staff Nurses Reid and Verity.

It was a proud moment for the North Eastern Hospital when Nurse Love went up to receive the handsome Cup from the Chairman of the M.A.B. It is engraved with the following inscription: "The Ross Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup for competition by nurses of the M.A.B. Hospitals, presented by the Matrons." There was a large gathering of spectators in the beautiful grounds, including many Matrons and Medical Superintendents of other M.A.B. Hospitals. They were most hospitably received and entertained by Dr. Woodford, Medical Superintendent, Miss Balsillie, Matron, and her Staff, and the attention of the onlookers was agreeably divided between delicious fruit salad and tea and the flying white figures on the court.

Everyone was delighted to see Miss Ross, who was taking a keen interest in the game. With the presentation of the Cup and a short speech from the Chairman, a very exciting and enjoyable afternoon was brought to a close. We heartily congratulate the Matrons who were the originators and promoters of this idea to stimulate a healthy love of sport among their nurses, and a friendly rivalry among the Hospitals of the M.A.B.

We may add that the defeated shook hands in true sportsmanlike manner with the victors at the conclusion of the game.

### BOTULISM.

The tragic outbreak of botulism at Loch Maree Hotel has, says *The Lancet*, naturally directed attention to the possibility of further outbreaks in this country. First recognised in Germany, where it was at one time fairly prevalent, the nature of botulism was only elucidated when van Ermengem in 1896 isolated the *bacillus botulinus* as the cause. From that date until about ten years ago the condition was looked upon as a very rare one and of academic rather than practical importance. Then a series of outbreaks and isolated cases were recorded in the United States of America and have continued up to the present time. They have shown two features of interest. In the first place, the European cases were nearly all associated with a vehicle which was usually meat in some form or other, and, indeed, the earlier outbreaks were given the title of sausage poisoning from the constant association with that form of made-up food. In the United States, on the contrary, the vehicle has been almost invariably fruit or vegetables in a preserved form, as a rule home canned or bottled, less commonly commercially put up in cans. One of the most dramatic outbreaks was after a banquet in a students club house at San Francisco, when the noxa was a salad of string beans prepared at the home of one of the students. The other feature of interest is that the outbreaks have been mostly localised in California or one of the western States. Since 1900 there have been reported 39 outbreaks of human botulism in California, with a total of 130 cases and a case mortality of 72 per cent. In the spring of 1918, a remarkable group of cases of oculo-motor paralysis, mostly occurring in London and Sheffield, was reported in our columns<sup>1</sup> in which botulism was at first suspected to be the cause. Careful inquiry, however, showed that this diagnosis was unfounded. Dr. W. G. Savage states definitely in his book<sup>2</sup> on food poisoning that he has been unable to trace a single definite outbreak of botulism in this country. The Loch Maree outbreak may be reasonably accepted as the first authenticated outbreak in Britain.

In California investigators have shown that the botuline bacillus is not only a cause of human disease, but that at least two animal diseases are related to it, viz., limberneck in chickens and fodder disease in horses. A diligent examination of possible material outside the animal body has demonstrated the presence of this bacillus upon the surface of growing fruits and vegetables, bruised cherries, decaying leaves, and the bodies of insects. Extensive soil studies have also been made, and it has been shown that the spores of the organism are widely distributed through the soil of the western States and also in many other parts of U.S.A. Dr. Meyer has published a paper showing their distribution in soil, and at the present time has in hand a series of investigations, not yet

<sup>1</sup>*The Lancet*, 1918, i., 568, 569.

<sup>2</sup>"Food Poisoning and Food Infections." 1920. Cambridge University Press.

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