

MILKBORNE DISEASE:**AN APPEAL TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.**

MR. ERNEST HART is engaged on a general inquiry into milk-borne disease since 1881, in continuation of his paper of that year on the Influence of Milk in Spreading Zymotic Disease, and will be much obliged if those health officers who possess notes of outbreaks of disease traceable to the agency of milk will be good enough to furnish him with a brief statement of the facts, so far as known, in the shape of answers to the questions subjoined:

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| 1. Date. | 8. Number of such families invaded. |
| 2. Locality. | 9. Sanitary circumstances of farm or dairy from which milk was obtained. |
| 3. Reporter. | 10. Exciting cause of outbreak. |
| 4. Total number of cases. | 11. Circumstances implicating milk. |
| 5. Deaths. | 12. Facts showing special incidence of disease. |
| 6. Number of cases amongst drinkers of suspected milk. | 13. Reference to report. |
| 7. Number of persons supplied by milkman. | |

ROYALTY AT THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

LAST Monday was a gala day at the Royal Free Hospital, for the new buildings were opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Princess undertook to accept purses of money in aid of the building fund. The ceremony was a very pretty one, and the object most successfully attained, for no less than £2,000 was raised towards paying off the debt of £6,000. The Princess, accompanied by the Prince and their two daughters, arrived at one o'clock, and were conducted to a platform in the Milne Ward, which, emptied of patients, was crowded with lady medical students, purse holders, and their friends. The Earl of Lathom, Vice-President, read an address of welcome, in which he drew attention to the fact that the Royal Free Hospital was the first hospital to admit the sick poor without letters of recommendation, and the only general hospital which had opened its doors to the women medical students, who now numbered 150, pursuing their studies at the London School of Medicine for Women. The Prince replied in a graceful little speech, in which he said that many members of his family had been interested in the welfare of the hospital. King George IV and King William IV had been patrons, and also the Duchess of Kent, and the Queen before she came to the throne, and that since 1863 he himself had been a vice-patron.

After the speeches 120 purses were presented, many of the purse holders being little children in picturesque dress. The royal party were then conducted over the surgical and accident wards on the ground floor. In the ward devoted to female surgical cases the Princess stayed a long time, and spoke to every patient, and gave each one a flower from the bouquet which had been presented to her earlier in the proceedings.

The women medical students were mustered in the new operating theatre, and it was felt by all of them that this visit of the Princess of Wales was made in sympathetic recognition of the work being done by their school and hospital.

At an examination for inspectors of nuisances, held by the Sanitary Institute on July 19 and 20, at Norwich, twenty-four candidates presented themselves, and fourteen passed.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.—The *Times* correspondent, telegraphing from Singapore on July 20th, states: Cholera has been prevalent among the natives for the past six weeks. Lieutenant C. V. M. Sarel, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, died to-day. He is the first European to succumb.

MR. T. J. REESE, a medical practitioner of Ystradgynlas, Breconshire, was struck dead by lightning on July 21st. He was called upon to attend a case of burning in a neighbouring village, and as he reached the top of a hill known as the Drym mountain, a thunderstorm came on. Mr. Reese and the horse he had ridden were afterwards discovered lying dead on the summit of the hill by the parent of the patient whom deceased was about to attend, the child's father having accompanied the doctor thus far, and hurried home in advance when the storm threatened.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL PHONOGRAPHERS.—The first general meeting of the Society of Medical Phonographers will be held on Tuesday, July 30th, at 4 P.M., at the house of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. Dr. Gowers, the President of the Society, will deliver an inaugural address. The meeting will be open to all members of the medical profession. The Secretary of the Society is Dr. James Neil, Warneford Asylum, Oxford.

LAW v. MEDICINE.—Medicine and law have many points of contact, but it has remained for the members of the two professions in Preston to devise a new field for friendly rivalry. A cricket match played between representative elevens has now become an annual event, and the opportunity is taken to entertain a large number of guests from the neighbourhood. This year the occasion has been, under the directing hand of Dr. George King, more successful than ever, and some thousand persons attended to see the match, which, we are glad to add, was won by Medicine by 121 to 58.

SIR EDWARD LAWSON distributed, on July 18th, the prizes gained by the students of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School during the winter session. The Dean's report stated that in consequence of the fact that a number of students went to practise abroad at the conclusion of their course, it had been decided to establish classes for the study of diseases peculiar to tropical climates. The number of students who had entered during the year was eighty-six, and the daily attendance was 200. The Pereira Prize (certificate and £5) was won by Mr. F. P. Jones; the Governors' Clinical Gold Medal by Mr. D. C. Rees. For anatomy, Mr. W. Green was successful in the senior, and Mr. C. B. Wagstaff in the junior division, the latter also taking a prize for biology. The prize for chemistry was awarded to Mr. J. E. Humphreys, and those for physiology (senior division) to Mr. W. E. Morgan. The award for medicine fell to Mr. Bosanquet; while for surgery Mr. Hudson was successful.

PTOMAINES AND VEAL POISONING.—At an inquest held at Larne, co. Antrim, by Dr. Adams, J.P., coroner, the following facts were brought out in evidence: A healthy calf was castrated on May 25th; it was found to be ill on May 28th, and was killed. The carcass was removed to the house of the butcher in Larne on May 29th, and was sold in quarters to various people on June 1st. Those persons who partook of the hind quarters, whether in the form of soup or jelly, all suffered severely, while those who consumed the fore-quarters did not suffer at all. One of the sufferers—a woman—died. She had eaten the veal fried in butter for breakfast on June 2nd, and boiled into soup for dinner on the same day, and in the form of jelly for breakfast on June 3rd. On June 4th she was seized with intense pain in the bowels, vomiting, and diarrhoea, and died on June 11th. Drs. Killen and Adrain gave it as their opinion that death was due to some irritant in the veal. The stomach and intestines were submitted to Mr. J. F. Hodges, F.I.C., for analysis. He has now succeeded in separating from the viscera and from the veal jelly substances giving similar reactions and belonging to the class of ptomaines. Besides the woman who died six other people in the same house had serious symptoms.

BRITISH GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting of this Society on July 11th the discussion on Dr. Fancourt Barnes's paper on some difficulties in the use of the curette was resumed by Mr. H. Bellamy Gardner, who said that hollow metallic dilators, wedge-shaped in longitudinal section, were the best, and that after curetting the cavity should be swabbed with iodised phenol, an iodoform pencil introduced, and the vagina plugged with iodoform gauze. Dr. Routh was glad to hear the sponge tent condemned, and thought laminaria unsafe unless properly prepared. Dr. Heywood Smith recommended Bell's "dredge" curette, or Jessett's modification of it, as by its use complete removal of the diseased tissues could be ensured. Dr. Macnaughton Jones insisted on the need for antiseptic precautions before, during, and after operation, and on the maintenance of sufficient dilatation of the cervical canal. Certain inflammatory states