

value and justifies its further development. It must be gratifying, nevertheless, to those interested in it, to feel that the cause which they have at heart has the sympathetic support of representatives in every class of their countrymen, from the highest to the lowest. In this they will see not only an acknowledgment of their worthy purpose, but a guarantee that the future conduct of their operations will occupy an established place in public favour. Mr. Frederick Treves has personally superintended the hospital arrangements on board the new vessel, and the masters of the various mission ships have been instructed in the early treatment of such emergencies as are likely to occur at sea by Dr. Schofield. The organisers of this movement, therefore, may now feel that they have done what they could to give the hardy smacksmen that needful privilege of helpful care which has been enjoyed by landsmen for generations. It is also most satisfactory to know that the hospital ship will be able to render efficient service during the present stormy season, and we would impress upon every cheerful giver the importance of maintaining her at her post, and of fitting out to join her, as soon as may be, her consort the *Albert*.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE GUARDS.

A ROYAL WARRANT has just been issued which introduces important changes into the medical service of the Household Brigade. In future the surgeon-major and brigade-surgeon are the only medical officers who will remain on the establishments of the brigades. After the existing medical officers have been provided for by promotion or retirement, the surgeon-major will be appointed from the medical staff of the army by the titular colonel of the regiment, and be gazetted to the regiment, reckoning his seniority in the brigade from the date of the gazette. No appointments will be made of surgeons in the Household Brigade; as vacancies occur in the establishment they will be filled up from the Army Medical Staff by surgeons who will be attached to the Household Troops for this purpose for the term of their service at home, and will be subject to the regulations which apply to officers of the medical staff generally. Special care has been taken to prevent any injustice being done to the existing medical officers of the Brigade, as no surgeon-major can be appointed from the medical staff so long as any surgeon remains on the establishment who is eligible for promotion. This Warrant appears to have been framed to carry out the recommendation of the committee with regard to the assimilation of the medical service of the Guards to that of the army generally. It will tend in a slight degree to counteract the effect of the increased length of a tour of continuous foreign service introduced by Mr. Stanhope, by adding to the number of home appointments available for the officers of the medical staff. It will also have the advantage of enabling the selected few so employed to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the medical schools and civil hospitals of renewing and increasing their professional knowledge.

CHRONIC COCAINE POISONING.

M. MAGNAN, at the Société de Biologie, lately (*Progrès Méd.*, No. 5) described three cases of chronic poisoning by cocaine characterised by marked mental and sensory disturbance. The first case was one where cocaine had been substituted for morphia in the relief of renal colic. After two months' use of the drug the patient began to suffer from illusions of sight and hearing and neuro-muscular irritability. He discontinued the cocaine for six months, resorting to morphia; but on again resuming cocaine the delusions recurred, the patient feeling imaginary blows on the body, or something under the skin, together with a

certain degree of analgesia. At the end of a short time he had an epileptic seizure. In the second case (one of hepatic colic) the same substitution of cocaine for morphia had been effected, and produced very similar effects, also terminating in an attack of epilepsy. The third case also presented hallucinations of sight and hearing, sensation of foreign bodies beneath the skin, and slight analgesia. M. Magnan pointed out that in its action on sensation and the sensory organs cocaine seemed to resemble the alcohols and absinthe rather than morphia, with this difference, that whereas the influence of cocaine poisoning seemed to operate on the cerebral cortex from the occipital lobes forwards, alcohol and absinthe appeared to affect the cortex in the reverse order.

THE USE OF REVOLVERS.

A RATHER regrettable revolver accident occurred the other day. While several boys were travelling together to school in a railway carriage, one of them produced a revolver. The others were interested of course, and someone in playing with the weapon pulled the trigger, a shot was fired, and a boy was seriously wounded in the side. It is just in such a simple way that accidents of this kind usually happen. A pistol or a gun is being looked at, and no one thinks about its being loaded, till somebody is hurt, perhaps killed. The unfortunate occurrence just quoted should suffice to teach the folly not only of carrying a loaded revolver, but of carrying one at all where there is no real or probable necessity for its use. The habit is becoming a much too common one. The few instances in which it has done really good service are probably far outnumbered by those in which it has proved a cause of avoidable injury and vain regret. This latest accident serves as another striking protest against the prevalent fashion. Parents and teachers remembering it must exercise a more than usually shrewd control over the sporting fancies of boys under their care if they would prevent an occurrence which too easily repeats itself. In view of the late terrible crimes and tragedies in which this most pernicious and unnecessary appanage of an Englishman has figured, we must once again urge upon the Government the desirability of insisting upon the numbering and registration by vendors of each weapon sold, and of the imposition of a heavy tax on such a dangerous "luxury."

HYDROXYLAMIN IN SKIN DISEASES.

DR. EICHOFF, of the Municipal Hospital, Elberfeld, has found an admirable substitute for pyrogallie acid, chrysa-robin, and other powerful reducing agents used in external applications for skin diseases in hydroxylamin, which is, chemically speaking, an ammonia in which one of the atoms of H is replaced by HO. The most suitable compound for dermatological use is the chloride, the formula of which is $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{Cl}$. This occurs in colourless, strongly hygroscopic crystals, which are readily soluble in water, glycerine, or spirit, the solution showing an acid reaction. When introduced into the blood, hydroxylamin forms methæmoglobin, the blood rapidly becoming of a deep-brown colour. In large doses—that is to say, 0.01 gramme per kilogramme of body weight—it produces hæmaturia in consequence of the destruction of the red corpuscles. It also acts on the nervous centres, producing narcosis. The high reducing power possessed by hydroxylamin renders it a powerful poison to low organic forms, and on this account it is to be very strongly recommended in dermatology. The preparation used by Dr. Eichoff is the hydrochlorate dissolved in a mixture of equal parts of glycerine and spirits of wine in the proportion of 1 per 1000. This is applied with a brush to the affected parts of the skin, which must first be carefully washed with soap three to five times a day. In this way he