

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Charitable Aspect of Betting.

It cannot be denied that the gambling attaching to horse-racing is the source of much misery, and that an indulgence in it means the ruin of many a man. The stay-at-home Englishman is not in a position to judge of the formidable extension assumed in this city in recent years by this dangerous pastime in all ranks of life. When the institution except the *pari-mutuel* was established a few years ago, the Government decided that a certain percentage of the money risked should be allotted annually to good works, such as hospitals, crèches, orphanages, &c. The committee appointed to apportion the funds available amongst the different charities met on Jan. 17th last, and the appended list will show that the year's takings left at their disposal amounted to no less than 267,950 francs. Those unfortunate persons whose "tips" have the habit of not "coming off" will have the satisfaction, at any rate, of knowing that a proportion of their money is utilised for most worthy purposes. The Government in thus feeding the hospitals may be said to be making the best of a bad propensity.

The Municipal Council and the Hospitals.

There appears to be some doubt in the minds of some members of the Municipal Council as to the application of the rule obtaining in Paris hospitals that those patients whose means allow it should pay a daily sum for their maintenance and treatment. The Council has accordingly directed that a return shall be issued for each hospital stating the number of patients, especially paying patients, admitted between Jan. 1st and Nov. 1st, 1894, together with the duration of the treatment in each instance. A proposal to appoint for each hospital a Commission, whose duty it shall be to fix a tax on surgical operations, was referred to the Commission of the Assistance Publique. It was further resolved to transform with the least delay possible the Hôpital Herold—now utilised as an overflow hospital for the Hôtel Dieu—into a children's dispensary. The need of such an establishment is severely felt in the neighbourhood, which comprises the populous 17th, 18th, and 19th arrondissements.

The Cause of Death in Cocaine Poisoning.

M. Maurel of Toulouse¹ communicates the result of his researches on the mechanism of death from fatal doses of cocaine. Laboratory experiments enable him to state that the drug acts on the capillaries, causing their contraction, and on the leucocytes which, under its influence, become globular and rigid, whilst they swell and lose their property of adhering to the sides of the bloodvessels. It is thus seen that thrombosis and embolism (the plugs being composed of the red corpuscles) may easily form, and, according to M. Maurel, pulmonary embolism is the *contre-temps* most to be dreaded when cocaine is employed. Arguing that intra-arterial injections of cocaine made in the direction of a non-vital part of the body would be harmless, M. Maurel confirmed this by introducing with impunity into the femoral artery of the rabbit as much as 10 centigrammes per kilogramme of body weight. He has observed the leucocytic changes mentioned above when a small quantity of a concentrated solution of cocaine—e.g., 10 per cent.—is injected. This exemplifies the danger of employing strong solutions for anæsthetic purposes. It may be remembered that M. Reclus, an ardent advocate of cocaine anæsthesia for even considerable operations, has never ceased to declaim against the use of concentrated solutions. In conclusion M. Maurel states that in fatal accidents from cocaine the chief and most frequent cause of death is pulmonary embolism due to the swollen and paralysed white corpuscles forming plugs in the contracted capillaries of the lung. I would ask, however, if syncope from fright does not suffice to account for such an accident in a nervous patient operated on in the sitting posture? The other day I was called upon to administer chloroform to a delicate woman for tooth extraction. The operator was quite surprised when I insisted on the patient remaining during the entire *séance* in the recumbent posture. I am convinced that if dentists would accustom themselves to operate with the patient lying down we should hear of fewer accidents from cocaine or other anæsthetics.

¹ Académie de Médecine, Nov. 13th.*French Surgical Congress.*

The next congress will be held in October, 1895, the first meeting being fixed for the third Monday of that month. The questions to be discussed are: Surgery of the Lungs (the pleura excepted), and Early or Late Operative Intervention in Fractures (fractures of the skull being excluded).

Nov. 24th.

VIENNA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Transplantation of the Human Cornea.

At a recent meeting of the Vienna Society of Physicians, Professor Fuchs exhibited a case of transplantation of the human cornea. It is well known that Professor Hippel has succeeded in transplanting pieces of the cornea in four cases; but the pieces of cornea that he transplanted were small, whilst Professor Fuchs used flaps of from 4 to 5 mm. in diameter. Large pieces of the cornea, when transplanted, do not become opaque so soon as small ones. The pieces for transplantation used by Professor Fuchs in his case were taken from a human eye. Four weeks had elapsed at the time of exhibition since the operation had been performed, and the piece implanted was perfectly transparent, while in previous cases the opacity had commenced after the tenth day.

The Antitoxin Treatment of Tetanus.

Dr. E. Schwarz reported last week on a case of tetanus treated by Tizzoni's antitoxin. The treatment was commenced on the second day of the disease, and the spasms disappeared under the treatment, but the temperature rose during this time from 37.3° C. to 40.3°, and the patient after the fourth injection died from heart failure. It was clear that the leucocytosis was increased in consequence of the treatment. The number of the leucocytes was 11,000 before the first injection, rising to 18,000 on the next day, and was 17,000, 16,000, and 15,000 on the following days. Dr. Schwarz recommended the use of stronger doses of the antitoxin than those prescribed by Tizzoni.

Cholera in Austria.

Last week the cholera epidemic attained greater activity in Galicia, and some cases occurred in Lemberg. Since the beginning of the epidemic 13,160 cases with 7177 deaths have been officially recorded in Galicia, and 861 cases with 489 deaths in the Bukowina. Some sporadic cases have also occurred in Hungary.

Nov. 13th.

NEW YORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Action of Health Authorities in the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

THE question of the propriety of officially recognising and treating tuberculosis as a communicable disease is just now agitating both the health authorities and the medical profession in this country. The Michigan State Board of Health requires notification and registration of cases of consumption, but does not insist on isolation. The Pennsylvania State Board of Health is considering the advisability of issuing similar orders. The Board of Health of the City of New York has—instead of adopting registration—recommended that physicians and other persons to whom the knowledge of a case of tuberculosis may come be requested to report to the Health Department all such cases within seven days of the time when such sick persons come within their observation. A member of the Board explains the method of procedure as follows. Reports of cases are carefully guarded by the Board of Health. They are considered as being confidential, and no physician or patient need fear the facts becoming known. The relations of the inspectors of the Board of Health to individual physicians who report cases are governed by strict professional courtesy. The services of the bacteriological laboratory can be had by any physician who, on reporting a case of consumption, forwards with his report a small amount of sputum from the suspected case. Physicians are informed through the agency of the medical press and circulars of information from the Board of Health, or depôts, at which they can obtain, free of expense, "culture tubes" in which the suspected matter is placed, and which have to be returned to the depôts properly labelled. The collectors make the rounds of the depôts