

## INSTITUTIONAL LETTER-BOX.

### HOME FOR EPILEPTIC BOY.

OUR correspondent "H. H.," whose letter asking for information on the above subject was published in THE HOSPITAL of September 2 (page 586), in addition to the facts already brought to his notice, will be interested to learn that a "List of Institutions for the relief, cure, and care of persons suffering from paralysis, epilepsy, and other nervous diseases, and for incurable, imbecile, and feeble-minded persons," is published by the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London, W.C., and can be obtained from Mr. Godfrey H. Hamilton, the secretary, who is always willing to answer questions on the subject. The list, which is printed on one sheet of paper, gives all information as to conditions of admission and to fees, and should be studied side by side with "Burdetts' Hospitals and Charities," a copy of which can be obtained from this office.

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—In reference to the Scotch "frost-bite" case reported in your issue of the 26th ult., I think you have overlooked the English case of a baker's assistant, decided a few months ago, in which the Court held that the employer was not liable. The cases were very similar, and the decisions seem to be contradictory.—Yours truly,  
23 Throgmorton Street, E.C., R. LANGTON COLE.  
September 14.

### VALIDOL IN DIPSO MANIA.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Some months ago I drew the attention of the profession to the value of a combination of menthol and valerianic acid in the treatment of sea-sickness and train-sickness. Further experiments with this preparation, which is sold under the name of "Validol," have demonstrated to my satisfaction that it is a very valuable agent in combating the evil effects of alcoholic indulgence and of the drug habit. I find that it relieves all those nauseating feelings and cravings which are the concomitants of alcoholic excess, gradually abolishes all the desire for alcohol, and minimises the longing for drugs.

I have also found it useful in alleviating the effects of chloroform inhalation, but as yet my experience in this direction is too limited to pronounce a definite judgment. I will be glad to hear if others have tried this preparation for such troubles.—I am, faithfully yours, THEO. M. KENDALL, formerly Surgeon St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, N.S.W.

37 Walbrook, E.C.,  
September 16.

### THE DIETETICS OF THE CHANNEL SWIM.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—It having been stated and advertised in the public press that during my Channel swim I partook of various forms of nourishment, I think it only fair to state publicly that my only food consisted of Swiss milk chocolate and a few grapes and the leg of a chicken.—Yours faithfully,  
J. W. BURGESS.

Lorne Cottage, 30 Dover Street, Walmer.

[We understand that Mr. Burgess used Nestlé's milk chocolate, and also consumed half a cup of tea made with Nestlé's Swiss milk. No meat extracts were used by him.—ED. THE HOSPITAL.]

### ACID-RESISTING MACKINTOSH.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—I have seen in your paper a letter with inquiry for good mackintosh sheeting for a bed-ridden case. I can recommend that supplied by Messrs. J. H. Pontifex, Ltd., 99 Buckingham Palace Road, as being most reliable. I have always found their goods satisfactory.

Regent's Park, September 16.

A.

### "QUEER DEFINITIONS IN HOSPITAL DIET."

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—I have read with very great interest your account of Mr. Conrad Thies' interview with the *Sunday School Chronicle* [THE HOSPITAL, September 9, page 602].

I should not trouble you with a letter, except for the fact that at the end of your quotation you refer to the practice of the London Hospital of asking its patients to provide their own tea, sugar, and butter. As Mr. Sydney Holland is at present in the north of Scotland, and probably has not seen your reference to him, I am replying on his behalf.

I think my friend Mr. Thies has been indulging in the old practice of putting up straw men in order that we may have the pleasure of seeing him knock them down. He points out that in certain hospitals medical officers may order champagne and other luxuries, but may not order tea, sugar, and butter. Of course if the rule as to tea, sugar, and butter had been adopted because we considered them a luxury, and yet allowed other luxuries to be ordered, our position would be "indefensible." Unfortunately for Mr. Thies' rhetoric, that is not our reason, and so far as I have been able to discover in tracing back the minutes, it never was the reason.

I think we all agree that the patients who are now treated in the hospitals are not the same in social position as they were at the time when most of our hospitals were founded. They are of a higher social position. A great many of our patients are those who can afford an ordinary and simple illness, but cannot afford long expensive illnesses, especially those involving a surgical operation. I think the hospitals are doing perfectly right in acknowledging that the social position of their patients has changed, and in agreeing to admit patients for treatment who would not have been admitted in the days when medical and surgical treatment was less expensive.

But because a hospital offers to give a poor person treatment which that person cannot afford to buy—skilled nursing, expensive dressings, expensive medicine, expensive treatment—is it also the duty of the hospital to become an hotel as well as a hospital, and provide all food free? Opinions may differ in this matter. Some committees may say "We prefer to give everything," others say, "We will give in treatment what the patient cannot afford to pay for, but we do expect the patient to contribute towards articles of daily consumption." Whatever view the hospital committees may take, they each have a good deal to say on their side, and neither, I am convinced, would agree that their position was, as Mr. Thies said, "absolutely indefensible." Yours very truly,

London Hospital, E. W. MORRIS, Secretary.  
Whitechapel, E., September 19.

Oxo was the only fluid beef which obtained the much-coveted Grand Prix at the Festival of Empire Exhibition. This makes the ninth Grand Prix awarded to Oxo in the great International Exhibitions during the last four years.