

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

A much needed want is now being supplied by the Rev. C. E. Sharp in the Esquimalt parish towards the sailors on the ships not provided with chaplains. The Rev. gentleman proposes giving fortnightly entertainments to the ship's company, coffee and cake being provided. The first of these entertainments was held on Wednesday last, as much as an experiment as anything else, there being about fifty men present. Songs were sung by various members of the ship's company, assisted by Mr. C. S. Skene. When the time came for retiring, the men were all in a good humor, and vowed that they would all be present on the next occasion.

The meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias in Victoria this week was a most important event in the history of the order in this city. Wednesday night a banquet was tendered to Supreme Chancellor W. W. Blackwell, at the Wilson, the arrangements for which reflecting the highest credit on the committee entrusted with its preparation.

Rev. W. W. Bolton, of San Francisco, is visiting his brother-in-law, Mr. W. F. Bullen, and intends stopping here for some weeks. The C. C. U. are anxious to hear the Rev. gentleman's views on the present crisis brought about by the peculiar action of the rector.

The Victoria Knights will visit Nanaimo, Sunday, June 16, to decorate the graves of departed brethren. The fare for the excursion has been fixed at \$1.50 and return, and no doubt others as well as the Knights will take this opportunity of visiting the Coal City.

Cards are out for the wedding of Mr. D. R. Ker and Miss Agnes Heisterman. The ceremony will take place Tuesday afternoon next, at the residence of Mr. H. F. Heisterman, after which the principal parties to the contract will leave for Monterey, California.

On Sunday evening, Miss Ellen Walter was married in Temple-El, Vancouver, by Rabbi Pailo, to Joseph Kline, of Nanaimo. Miss Walter was a very popular young lady and her many friends are wishing her many years of wedded bliss.

The Y. P. S. C. S. of the First Presbyterian Church have elected the following officers: Mr. W. C. Wilson, president; Miss M. A. Wilson, vice-president; Miss Gill, secretary; and Mr. D. A. Frazer, treasurer.

Lady Victoria Blackwood, youngest daughter of Lord Dufferin, was married in Paris last Wednesday to Hon. William Leo Plunkett, eldest son of Lord Plun-

kett, Archbishop of Dublin, the latter officiating.

The entertainment given by the Mikado company, at Institute Hall, Thursday night, was socially, if not in point of members present, a success.

Hon. M. and Miss Lister, son and daughter of Lord Ribblesdale, at one time a lord in waiting to Her Majesty, were in the city this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Meldram, who have been visiting Santa Cruz, are expected to return home in a couple of weeks.

A brother of Chief Justice Begbie is expected to arrive from England this month on a visit to Victoria.

A well known commission merchant now visiting the east will shortly return a benedict.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Lemmens and Rev. Father Prefontaine have returned from Portland.

Mrs. Haslam, of Nanaimo, was a visitor to Victoria this week.

Mr. Ross H. McMillan left for the east, Wednesday evening.

A. C. Flumerfelt has gone east.

SOME NUTS FOR "ANOTHER M. D." TO CRACK.

To the Editor of THE HOME JOURNAL:

SIR—I could not think of accepting M. D.'s hospitality without some return in kind, and therefore put before him a dish of nuts which I venture to believe will rather try his powers of digestion.

M. D. lays much stress on the statistics collected by the *British Medical Journal*, which is edited by Dr. Ernest Hart. This gentleman has through a long series of years lent all the weight of his name and his paper to the cause of vaccination; he is also the author of a widely circulated pamphlet on the subject, which has been proved to contain—well, misstatements. A great ally of his is Sir George Buchanan, until lately the medical head of the Local Government Board. Now these two men have done perhaps more than any other twenty to sustain vaccination in England, yet, despite the ironical entreaties of their opponents and the angry remonstrances of their friends, they have persistently declined to appear before the Royal Commission, which, by the way, has been sitting since 1889, so there has been no lack of opportunity. As their evidence would have been simply invaluable to vaccination if it had stood the test, their unusual if not quite unlooked for modesty has done their cause a world

of harm. Can M. D. suggest any reason for their non-appearance other than the fear of cross-examination?

In the statistics, a great deal is made of the virtue of re-vaccination; but if this be necessary, what becomes of the immortal Jenner, who wrote that the first "vaccination is attended with the singularly beneficial effect of rendering through life the person so inoculated perfectly secure from the infection of smallpox." And the scarcely less immortal Sir John Simon, added his testimony that "neither renewed vaccination, nor inoculation with smallpox, nor the closest contact with smallpox patients will occasion him to betray any remnant of susceptibility to infection." Time having proven these eminent authorities so ridiculously in error, is it not more than probable that current dogmatic assertions are equally wide of the mark.

M. D. makes the artless admission that "cleanliness is the foundation on which medicine is built," and yet he seeks to defend a practice that necessitates the introduction of unclean matter directly into the blood. Does he assert for a moment that vaccine lymph can by any possibility be clean? Certainly it passeth the wit of man to say of what the lymph of the present day is composed, but one is safe in saying this much, that it is an agglomeration of impurities.

Does M. D. really believe that, in the present state of medical science, unvaccinated patients are allowed to die at a rate that would be more than appalling in the case of yellow fever and cholera in the most unsanitary portions of the globe. And how does he account for the unvaccinated death rate being returned from Glasgow at 63 per cent, while in Leicester it was but 15 per cent. In this nineteenth century we look for some uniformity even in death rates. The figures must be wrong.

I have kept the hardest nut to the last; here it is. Of what is vaccine lymph composed, from whence is it derived, and what may be expected to be the effect of introducing it directly into the blood? I defy M. D. to give a satisfactory answer to any one of these three questions.

Yours faithfully,
WM. GREIG.

The Gulf of Georgia Canning Company's new cannery which is the largest on the Fraser River, is now rapidly nearing completion, and for some days a large force has been engaged at can making. The company intend to put up 30,000 cases this season.

The N. V. Coal Company is sinking a prospect shaft about a mile from the east end of the town. It will probably let the work by contract as soon as they strike rock. It is in line of No. 1 slope. A track in connection with this will branch off from the main line.