

ency patients carried by the police ambulance should be taken to the General Hospital. This is unjust to the other hospitals, and it is unjust to the patients themselves. But we have had the matter looked into, and it is also unlawful. The Police Commissioners have no such powers as they assumed in this case.

It is true that the Mayor, in reply to a deputation, promised to have the order made to apply only to such emergency cases as would be city order patients. But it is no use making a promise that is not carried into effect. The driver of the ambulance goes on doing as he did when the order was first issued. And, further, it is impossible at first to determine whether an emergency patient will require a city order or not. In the meantime they are taken to the General.

BLINDNESS FROM WOOD ALCOHOL.

In the United States a number of cases of blindness have occurred from the use of wood alcohol. There have also been some reported in this country. With the object of lessening the frequency of this very distressing affliction, a committee in New York has taken up the matter with marked energy.

This committee is making a very determined effort to prevent the tragic cases of unnecessary blindness and death from wood alcohol poisoning such as are constantly being brought to its notice. Although a certain amount of legislation is necessary in the solution of this problem, the committee is convinced that education is the most important aspect of the work, and it has accordingly issued an illustrated folder on wood alcohol, in English, Yiddish and Italian, and numerous bulletins have appeared in English and foreign newspaper and in a variety of trade journals.

Communications regarding this subject should be addressed to Miss Carolyn C. Van Blarcom, Room 67, 105 East 22nd Street, New York. We would commend the work of this committee to our readers, and trust that any of them who may have met with instances of blindness from this cause, or who may know of places where wood alcohol is used, would correspond with the secretary of the committee, Miss Van Blarcom.

MARRIAGE, BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Cupid spent a busy 12 months in 1912, his efforts in Ontario bringing an increase of 3,038 marriages, or at the rate of 0.9 per thousand population; but in spite of this fact the provincial birth rate continues on the down grade. The report of the Registrar-General, which will shortly be issued, shows a birth rate of only 22.4, the lowest since 1903,