ad milk is not increased until the child is three months old. Then, half milk and water is given, and continued until the age of six months, when full milk is taken. Infant diarrhea, vomiting, and frequent feeding have occurred until the above rules, according to the age of the infant. Primary mixed feeding my experience has led me to discontinue it.

There is undoubtedly a lamentable ignorance among mothers as to the proper feeding of infants, and a large proportion of infant deaths are due to this cause. It is impossible that a mother can be ignorant of the birth of her child. Coming into the hands of the mothers in this way, I believe the rules would be read and observed, and a considerable saving of infant life be thus effected. Apologizing for trespassing so much on your valuable space,—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A. C. BRIDGES, M.R.C.S., etc.

MORTALITY FROM ALCOHOL.

Sir,—I think the Committee of the Harveian Society have assuredly done excellent service in preparing the report which has been laid before us, and I hope that the return of the statistics of the deaths from all causes, a method known to statisticians, if I mistake not, as the Chiefly-Letters. This method does not gives the mortality (i.e., death-rate) of the population, or of a section of the population, from any cause, so that it can be compared with another year's returns, or with another section of the population; for the total number of deaths may vary greatly. Thus, to take an illustration, in an unhealthy year the death-rate was much greater than in a healthy year. But the total deaths, and yet the actual number of deaths from phthisis, and the actual proportion they bear to the population living, may be exactly identical.

Similarly in the present case we have no means of knowing what proportion the intermperate is, simply because we have no return of the number living who belong to that category. We have the return of deaths caused by alcohol, and it is very interesting to know what proportion they bear to the deaths from all causes, but unless we know the proportion borne by the intermperate to the population at large, we could not tell the relative mortality of this impression.

When, therefore, this committee tell us in their invaluable summing-up that the mortality of the intermperate shows a fourfold increase in the deaths from diseases of the liver, etc., we must not be misled; the increase is purely relative to the total number of deaths.

Intermperate persons are to be accounted for no more as a cause than the total number of deaths amongst the intermperate, we shall find that liver diseases will account for four times as large a proportion of them as does the totaL

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

THE BELFAST HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

This tenth annual meeting of this hospital was held on January 26th, under the presidency of the Hon. T. F. O'Neill. From the secretary's report, it appears that 348 intern, and 7,335 external patients were treated during the past year at a cost of £384 195 4d. They are now three funds in connection with the hospital. "A Memorial Convalescent Fund," "a Convalescent Fund," and a "Bent Fund." The two latter have been devoted to give aid to those patients who, when cured of their actual diseases, require a change to the country or seaside, in order thoroughly to establish their health and strength. The third is for the wiping out of the ground-rent of the hospital.

An unsuccessful effort was made to get the certificates of attendance of the Royal University; but, notwithstanding the fact, thirty-eight senior students are attending the practice of the hospital. An alteration has been made in the rule relative to the appointment of medical officers. Hitherto, their appointment was permanent; now it will be for a period of four years. A physician and surgeon shall vacate office each year alternately. The retiring officers shall, however, be eligible for re-election.

THE TOWKESBURY RURAL HOSPITAL.

This 18th annual report of this institution shews that it goes forward on its way, relieving a great deal of sickness and doing a great deal of good. In 1882, 2,008 in-patients were treated, besides 412 out-patients. The number of severe accidents and urgent cases, admitted during the year, was unusually large; but notwithstanding this strain upon its resources, the financial condition of the hospital seems to be well sustained. Happy is the country that has no history, and happy is the hospital about which there is nothing to say except that it has been actively carried on during another year.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

FEMALE NURSES IN NAVAL HOSPITALS.

SIR JOHN WATT REID, K.C.B., Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy, who was present at the distribution of prizes in the Army Medical School on the 5th instant, remained at Netley till the following day, and made particular inquiries into the working of the system of female nursing at the Royal Victoria Hospital. We have reason to believe that introducing nursing sisters into some of the hospital establishments of the Royal Navy is under consideration. At present, the nursing in naval hospitals is entirely carried out by male attendants, many of whom are old naval pensioners.

CLOSE OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE ORGANISATION OF THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

The committee of inquiry into army hospital organisation, under the presidency of Lord Morley, met at Aldershot on Tuesday the 6th instant, in the mess-room of the officers of the army medical department. Various subjects engaged the attention of the committee, but it was understood that the manner in which the medi-