

SNIPPETS FROM TALKS.

Japan's Position in World Trade

Military Aspirations at a Discount — Lower Overheads Give Export Advantage — What To Do With Bleeding — Rigours of Early Colonisation.

MR. R. K. PALMER (3YA).

JAPANESE statesmen have convinced their followers that naval equality is essential to the country's national honour. That is hardly to be wondered at, for the government, almost as absolute as a dictatorship, is in the hands of the navy and army. They have emphasised this business of the national honour so much that they cannot withdraw; and since Britain and America are unlikely to agree to actual equality, there will have to be some strange compromising at the naval conference unless the whole world is going to set out again on a building race. The naval conference is so important to Japan that a Mongolian campaign is hardly likely until that is settled, particularly as it would rouse the whole world up against her. This emphasis on the national defences is nearly bankrupting Japan. This year's budget, £130,000,000, is one of the biggest on record. So is the deficit of £48,000,000, which will have to be made up by loans on the home market, which is already stuffed full of loans. And the amount absorbed by the army, navy and air force is greater than the deficit.

AGAIN, quite a considerable sum has to be voted for the relief of the farmer. That very dubious financial state, and also the plight of the farmer, are two of the reasons why Japan is not likely to use her army and



navy at present. Another reason is the Red (Russian) Air Force. Most observers think that if Japan was really intent on fighting Russia she missed her only chance two or three years ago. While she has been active in Manchuria, Russia has been just as busy in Siberia and the maritime provinces which border the Japanese property. Besides that, her factories have been turning out big aeroplanes, and more pilots have been trained. Bombs in the flimsy settlements of parts of her cities are a nightmare to Japan. On the whole, it looks as if Mr. Okada was setting the course for 1935 when he predicted trade expansion. Other nations are almost as afraid of a trade war with Japan as they are of an actual war—and with good reason. Low wages, long hours and the depreciation of the yen have helped her industries a great deal. Their own efficiency has helped them more. For one thing, Japan is so new an industrial competitor that her costs are not boosted up by the overhead of obsolete

and obsolescent plant. Her cotton goods exports in 1933 were equal to those of Great Britain. Japan's exports had to bear the overhead of only 8,000,000 spindles; Britain's of 50,000,000. All these factors helped her to increase her exports in 1933 by nearly 40 per cent. And they were still rising. The West has forced its civilisation on Japan and found at last an over-willing learner.

AMBULANCE TALK (2YA).

THREE serious mistakes are often made in the treatment of wounds. First, we put too much trust in iodine or methylated spirits, and we love to handle wounds. Secondly, we delight in using sticking plaster for recent wounds. Thirdly, we invariably omit the pad over the dressing whereby the pressure is kept uniform over the wound, and any tendency to recurrent bleeding is prevented. In the use of tincture of iodine three possible errors suggest themselves: the iodine is dissolved in alcohol which, if left long in a bottle, may evaporate and leave a solution more powerfully irritant than usual; a similar result may apply if the dressing is applied before the iodine is allowed to evaporate and dry on the wound; and cyanide gauze draws out the irritant properties of iodine, and should not be used as a dressing, otherwise severe and painful burns may result from this combination.

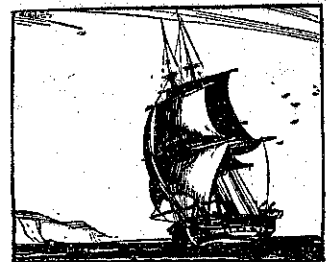
A TOURNIQUET is too often a source of mistakes. I would recommend these points to avoid errors in the use of a tourniquet: its use is indicated as a temporary measure only, while arterial bleeding is being treated; it is a last resource in treatment of bleeding; it must be curtailed to the shortest possible period in view of the intense pain and extreme discomfort caused to the patient; its pad must be placed and kept accurately on the pressure point to avoid any obstruction to the vein which accompanies the artery; its twisting apparatus must be arranged and kept carefully on the side of the limb exactly opposite to the pad, and finally its pressure must be just sufficient to control the artery and stop bleeding. Faintness associated with bleeding is Nature's first aid, and may save life, as it causes the patient to fall flat on the ground, slowing the heart action.

OINTMENT is inadvisable for recent wounds, as oils are for burns or scalds, owing to risk of sepsis, since in an emergency it is difficult to ensure cleanliness of ointment. Moreover, ointment will make a sticky mess of a wound, and may interfere with dressing when a doctor takes charge. In nose bleeding we should place the patient in a sitting position with the head backwards and instruct him to breathe through the mouth. If we

pinch the nostrils firmly with a finger and thumb we shall in many instances control the bleeding. Plugging in the case of ear-bleeding is dangerous, as we may easily cause septic infection. Blood is dark red in stomach bleeding, and nothing must be given by the mouth, lest perforation be caused in the stomach wall at the point of an ulceration.

MONA TRACY (3YA).

LET me give an extract or two from this account of the sailing from Gravesend of an emigrant ship bound for Port Nicholson in 1841: "The scene on deck, to the inexperienced landsmen's eyes was one of inextricable confusion. A heavy shower had fallen about half an hour before; the decks, filthy with mud and mire brought on board by visitors and lagging emigrants, were crowded and blocked up in all directions with stores of every description mingled in indescribable disorder, amidst coils of rope and cable links, chairs, spare poles and timber, casks, boxes, bales and packages soddened with rain. Invisible but imprisoned pigs were mingling their squeals and grunts in testimony of their disapproval, while a few others not yet housed or else broken loose took their chance with the human population and grunted amongst the cordage for the few vegetables scattered about. Near the entry



of the first cabin stood a couple of immense hencoops cruelly crammed with live occupants. Aloft in the rigging hung whole quarters of oxen, newly slain, and from somewhere below came the bleating of sheep. In the huge belly of the ship a few candles glimmered here and there throughout its enormous length, but the darkness was too great to distinguish anything in the immediate vicinity of the hatchway. As vision grew accustomed to the gloom scenes of disorder greater than on deck became apparent. Some had tramped for miles and were resting in the oblivion of sleep. Others had just arrived and were engaged in the vain attempt to find vacant spaces whereon to settle themselves and their provisions and luggage. Some were clamouring to be shown their berths, while others complained of the locality allotted them, far from the hatchway and in almost total darkness."